

OUR 116TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

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FEBRUARY 19, 2004

75 CENTS

SPRING OPENING FOR NEW FIREHOUSE CITED



Fire Chief Charles Murnane enjoys the view from inside his new office at Andover's public safety center. Workers are finishing the fire department side of the center on North Main Street, which the town manager expects will open in May.

SAFETY CENTER

\$14M project nears home stretch

By Ben Hellman

The bathrooms are being tiled. Many of the interior walls are painted. The new firehouse at Andover's safety center needs finishing touches and a good sweeping, but it is starting to look homey, said officials.

When the center will open

remains something of a question. While Carlos Mello, president of contractor Mello Construction, recently said the North Main Street building will be complete by March, Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski said he suspects the project might not be complete until May.

Still, Stapczynski and Fire Chief Charles Murnane appear pleased with recent progress. "We're excited about nearing completion. We're excited about showing the public what a good facility it is," said Stapczynski.

"I think the town will be very proud of this building when it's

done. Everybody we bring in seems to be very pleased," said Murnane.

Plant and Facilities Director Joe Piantadosi said the internal wiring for the fire station is a week away from completion. Piantadosi and Stapczynski said they expect the project to be substantially complete in May.

If the project is completed in May, it will arrive about 20 months behind schedule. Town Meeting voters approved \$12.9 million for the project in 1999, and the building was supposed to open in September 2002.

Andover created a project-manager position, an employee hired to oversee the completion of the safety center, the new schools and the senior center. More than one person held this position, with the most recent, Phil Tuminelli, announcing he was looking for new work in May 2002. Piantadosi said the projects ran beyond the length of his contract and he found other work. Today, the two schools are open, the safety center is still awaiting completion but ground was never broken for a new senior center.

Early in the safety center construction, delays and setbacks killed the chances of the

Continued on page 4



The view of the public safety center from North Main Street. Workers were continuing to finish the roof and other areas this week. The above photograph was taken last Friday, Feb. 13.

State to tackle road-salt issue

Drinking water effect concerns town

By Ben Hellman

The Massachusetts Highway Department will meet with Andover health and water officials to discuss salt contamination in Fish Brook, following a second letter from town officials.

The state agency did not respond to an October letter written by Andover Health Director Everett Penney, prompting the town Board of Health to send in January a second request to meet.

September water tests on Fish Brook — a five-mile long stream pumped into Haggetts Pond, the town drinking water supply — showed sodium levels 25 times greater than the those recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency. Fish Brook runs near the junction of Interstates 93 and 495. Also located near the junction is a state salt dump that supplies winter road salt for the highways. The salt dump is the main culprit from Fish Brook's high sodium levels,

said Penney, and salt runoff from the highways also contributes to the problem.

The contamination led Penney and others to petition a meeting with Mass Highway District Director Stephen O'Donnell. The town Board of Health contemplated making a criminal complaint against the state when O'Donnell did not respond within three months.

Its Jan. 9 letter requested the state provide a salt remediation plan in February, but Penney said this week he was just pleased to hear from the state. "It's encouraging to have the response," said Penney. "We're not looking to hold their feet to the fire. We're just interested in sitting down and discussing (the problem)."

Penney said he expects to schedule a meeting with the state and the Board of Health sometime after Monday, March 1. O'Donnell named Mass High-

Continued on page 6

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Mom, 8-year-old on front line of debate

By Andrea Gregory

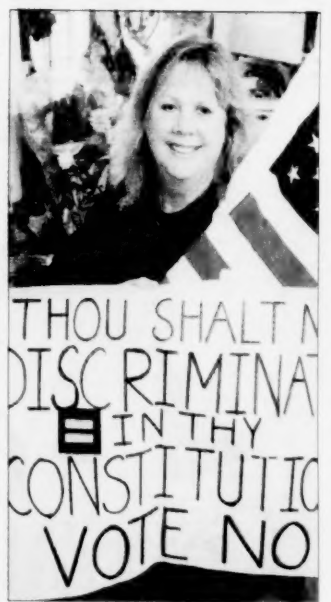
"Hey, hey. Ho, ho. Homophobia's got to go," sang 8-year-old Kaity Doyle, of Andover, into a megaphone while dancing in front of the Statehouse.

For two hours on Thursday, Feb. 12, Kaity led protesters in front of Statehouse calling for equal rights and the acceptance of gay marriage. She held a sign that read "Jesus and I love my gay brother."

"She just thought it was so exciting. I said, 'Honey, this is something that's going to be in the history books. We are making history right now,'" said Karen Doyle, Kaity's mother.

While most third-graders were in school, Kaity took the day off for what her family considered to be her first lesson in free speech. She said she was a little nervous at first. She said there were people there on both sides on the debate. Those in opposition also had signs and loud voices, she said.

"When I was thinking about it, I said 'What am I, a chicken or a girl?' and I got over my



Karen Doyle lost her voice while making her pro-gay marriage views known at the Statehouse.

fear," said Kaity. "Everyone should have equal rights, and that's one reason why I was there."

The other reason was to support her 21-year-old brother, who is gay, she said.

Continued on page 2

Index

Arts & Entertainment	15
Business	8
Classified/Real Estate	18
Crossword	16
Editorial	10
Education	9
Letters	10
Obituaries	12
Police Log	2
Seniors News	14
Sports	18
Townspeople	13
Town Talk	13



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Congregation eyes expansion near Shawsheen Square

By Meir Rinde

Another Andover religious congregation is planning an expansion project, but the town has concerns about the plan.

An Orthodox Jewish group — the Chabad Lubavitch Jewish Center of the Merrimack Valley — wants to tear down the home near the corner of Routes 133 and 28 where it is housed and build a new center for its growing congregation, complete with a parking lot with about 60 spaces and a new access road.

Building and planning officials have balked at the plan, in

part because access would come through a private road of uncertain legal status and a proposed new road that would cut across a neighboring property onto a small side street.

But under the state's Dover Amendment, towns cannot force religious and charitable organizations to obey many of the zoning restrictions that apply to people who want to put up new homes or businesses. Efforts to block such projects elsewhere in Massachusetts have on several occasions ended up in court.

Continued on page 5

POLICE LOG

ARRESTS

Wednesday, Feb. 11 - At 10:37 a.m., Jason Whitney, 26, of 435 Route 736, Hopewell Junction, N.Y. was arrested and charged on a warrant for driving violations.

At 2:40 p.m. Maria Castillo, 42, of 133 Essex St., Lawrence, was arrested and charged with two counts of shoplifting by concealing merchandise.

At 4:12 p.m., Shawn Callahan, 44, of 182 Andover St., Lawrence, was arrested and charged with having an open container of alcohol in the car, a number plate violation and possession of marijuana.

Thursday, Feb. 12 - At 12:16 a.m., Kalish Rodriguez, 18, of 7 Crescent Drive, was arrested and charged with driving with a suspended license.

At 2:40 p.m., Andris Anziani, 18, 69 Fern St., Lawrence, was arrested and charged with operating to endanger and driving with a suspended license.

At 7:51 p.m., Erin Michael, 21, of 5 Baker St., Wilmington, was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana.

At 8:09 p.m., Jonathan Michiello, 22, of 16 Tiffany Road, Salem, N.H., was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana.

Saturday, Feb. 14 - At 11:30 a.m., a 15-year-old Andover boy was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.

Sunday Feb. 15 - At 10:24 p.m., Hun Song, 46, of 469 Western Ave., was arrested and charged on a warrant with driving an uninsured, unregistered vehicle and a license plate violation.

Monday, Feb. 16 - At 1:53 a.m., Juan Benitez, 26, of 2015 University Ave., Bronx, N.Y., was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana.

At 2:21 a.m., Francis Benitez, 23, of 575 172 St., New York, N.Y. was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana.

At 3:40 a.m., Nicholas Dischino, 24, of 14 Watersedge Road, Hudson, N.H., was arrested and charged on a warrant with an equipment violation and driving with a suspended license.

THEFTS

Saturday, Feb. 14 - At 7:29 p.m., a Maple Avenue man reported that someone fraudulently used his credit card.

Tuesday, Feb. 17 - At 11:59 a.m., Andover Salon reported money stolen.

INCIDENTS

Tuesday, Feb. 10 - At 6:44 p.m., a woman slipped on some ice and fell in front of Wood Hill Middle School. Police reported a possible broken leg and requested a sand truck to sand the lot.

Wednesday, Feb. 11 - At 5:06 p.m., a middle-school-age boy reported that he believed his girlfriend was acting funny because of what she was saying. The girl had hurt herself in the past, said the boy. Police found the door to the girl's home locked and no one answered, and an officer

Continued on page 4

Both sides' advocates continue pressure

MARRIAGE DEBATE

Continued from page 1

Inside, the Statehouse lawmakers spent a second day struggling with the issue of gay marriage. A 12-hour debate on Thursday led to the rejection of the so-called Travis Amendment - the third attempt by legislators in two days to pass an amendment that would define marriage as a commitment between a man and a woman - leaving the constitutional convention gridlocked.

Andover's Democratic legislators voted against the Travis Amendment. They also voted to shoot down an amendment posed by House Speaker Thomas Finneran, but voted in favor of the so-called Lees Amendment. Under the Lees Amendment, civil unions would be guaranteed. Same-sex couples married between now and November 2006, when the amendment could be approved, would be stripped of their marriage certificates at that time and have their commitment considered a civil union. The other amendments did not guarantee civil unions.

Had the Lees Amendment passed, it would have blocked all other amendments from coming forward. The amendment would have required a second two-thirds vote next year, before it was allowed onto a statewide ballot in 2006.

Andover State Rep. Barbara L'Italien - who represents Andover precincts 1, 7 and 8 -



Resident Kaity Doyle, 8, used a bullhorn at the Statehouse to lead cheers for gay marriage.

said she voted for the Lees Amendment to block the other amendments from being adopted into the constitution. She said she would have voted against the Lees Amendment next year.

"That was strictly a strategic vote. The idea was to take the devil that we knew. We knew there were far more discriminating amendments coming forward," she said.

L'Italien said the concept of civil unions might have been acceptable six months ago, before the state Supreme Judicial Court ruled 4-3 that gay marriage cannot be banned under the Massachusetts constitution.

"The ultimate prize that they want has been dangled before them," she said. "For gay people

there is no compromise. I do think that they should have the right to be married."

L'Italien said the two-day constitutional convention left her exhausted, but she was proud to have been a part of such an important debate. She said she voted her conscience and what she "knew was right." She called her votes the most important she has made in her brief political career.

As a freshman legislator who is being targeted by the Republican party, L'Italien is aware already that she will need to fight for her seat in the next election. She said there is a chance her votes last week could affect her future in the 18th Essex District. "The constitution is not the place to put any restrictions,

ever," said L'Italien. "Whether that ends up turning me out of office next year, I had to do what was in my heart."

"We're really not talking about taking anything away from anyone. It's strictly a separation of church and state. We are talking about the civil side, not the church side," she said.

L'Italien said, on average, leading up to the convention, she received a call every two minutes regarding the issue of gay marriage. Letters poured in and new e-mails were arriving constantly.

Against gay marriage

Michael Hough, an Andover resident in state Rep. Barry Finegold's district, said he has contacted his legislators by phone, mail and e-mail. He said his efforts to convey his view to his elected leaders will continue until an amendment passes and the people have the chance to vote.

"I would hope that they would put into law that marriage is basically one man and one woman. We are pro-marriage. We are not against gays, per se," said Hough.

"The purpose of the amendment is to overturn the court ruling, and I view it in that sense," said Hough. "I would like the amendment to clearly state that marriage is between one man, one woman, period. I think that the gays have all the rights they need already."

L'Italien said it is clear her constituents have many different beliefs about gay marriage. She said she cannot ignore the personal stories people are trying to share with her, people with gay friends or family who want her to know how this will affect their lives.

"People are trying to show us the human face of this," she said.

Hundreds of those faces were present at the Statehouse. Gay marriage advocates gathered outside and on the third floor singing patriotic songs such as *God Bless America* and *America the Beautiful*. As their numbers increased, they were heard by some legislators, said L'Italien.

"Some of us walked out and listened, and some of us started to sing," L'Italien said. "It was emotional. These folks were just trying to sing songs about what makes our country great."

Conducting the informal choir was Doyle. Earlier, her husband had picked up her daughter, Kaity. Doyle stayed until the end of the night, although she had lost her voice during the protest.

At midnight, the House and Senate adjourned without adopting an amendment. They will take up the issue again on March 11, but for Doyle last week felt like a victory.

"I think the emotions of the day really got to me. The tears were just pouring down my face. We succeeded. It was really just such an emotional moment," she said.

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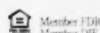
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IN BRIEF

PAST AND PRESENT



OLDER PHOTO COURTESY OF BILL KING; MODERN-DAY PHOTO BY TIM JEAN
In the top photograph, then-Superintendent of Schools Ken Seifert and J. Everett Collins enjoy a moment at the 1981 groundbreaking for the performing arts center that still bears Collins' name. The bottom photo shows the J. Everett Collins Center for the Performing Arts, which also serves as Andover High School's auditorium, as it looked this week.

The \$7,500 questions

Andover to pay for objective, random survey – starting soon

By Andrea Gregory

The town is willing to pay \$7,500 to know how residents feel about Andover.

In January, the selectmen voted 4-1 to move forward with a survey that will ask 1,200 residents to answer basic personal questions, standard opinion questions and three questions custom-made for Andover.

Selectman Ted Teichert was the only selectman to oppose having the town spend a few thousand dollars for the survey, mentioning it was close to the cost of July 4 fireworks, which are no longer in the town budget. But with the endorsement of four selectmen, Assistant Town Manager Steve Bucuzzo is working on presenting options to the selectmen to decide on Andover's three customized questions.

He said he talked to boards and committees to find questions officials believe must be answered by an in-town, ran-

dom survey. He said the customized questions should be ready to send out to the survey company by the end of this week.

National Citizens Survey, a standardized, community satisfaction survey, will compare Andover's data to other towns and cities across the country and also give Andover the raw data, said Bucuzzo. Bucuzzo said Andover will be able to see how it stacks up against more than 300 other communities. However, the only other Massachusetts communities that have participated in the survey have been Boston, Brookline and Worcester, he said.

"We can compare (Andover) against the norms and averages of other towns that have been surveyed. We think that's very valuable to have that type of comparison," he said. "It tells you something and gives you some sense of customer service."

Because Andover residents will not be crafting the survey, the survey questions should not be biased, said Bucuzzo. The survey company's standardized questions will not be geared to elicit desired certain answers or avoid specific topics.

"It's objective. It's also a good mechanism to see if there is a disconnect," he said.

Bucuzzo said the survey will be paid for out of unused out-of-state travel funds that were set aside for the town manager.

Bucuzzo said if the results prove useful, Andover might want to pay to have the survey done again in the future.

"I could see, potentially, doing it every five years," he said.

The 1,200 residents who will be asked to participate in the survey will receive notice in mid-March. The surveys will arrive about a week later and should be filled out as soon as possible, said Bucuzzo.

Presidential primary

The Massachusetts presidential primary will be held on Tuesday, March 2 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. All precincts will vote at the Andover High School Field House on Shawsheen Road.

There will be four primary elections on March 2: Democratic Party, Republican Party, Libertarian Party and Green-Rainbow Party. Voters not enrolled in a party or party designation will vote by choosing a party at the polls. To remain unenrolled after the presidential primary, a voter must fill out a party change card. Party change cards will be available at the voting precincts.

Residents who are registered to vote, but who did not reply to the annual town census in 2003, may call the town clerk's office and verify their voting status at 978-623-8258.

To verify precinct information residents may go to the town's Web site at www.town.andover.ma.us and look for a "Resources/Precinct Search."

The elected offices on the presidential primary ballot are for president; state committee man, Second Essex and Middlesex District; state committee woman, Second Essex and Middlesex District; and Town Committee.

Dog licenses

The town clerk's office sent dog-license renewal notices to resident dog owners in mid-December.

More than 1,650 dogs have had their license renewed as a result. However, there are many dogs that have not yet been licensed. If they are not licensed by March 1, an extra cost, an administration fee, will begin. According to a Town Meeting-approved bylaw, any dog licensed after February will include a cumulative administration fee of \$2 per month.

Residents may register their dogs at the town clerk's office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Residents may also register through the mail by sending a check payable to the town of Andover for \$10 and a current certificate of rabies vaccination, to the town clerk's office.

Questions? Call the town clerk's office at 978-623-8257.

Program focuses on corrupt companies

The Better Business Bureau will offer a program entitled "Opportunists Knock" focusing on corrupt companies and individuals who target the elderly community on Monday, Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. at Marland Place, 15 Stevens St. The Better Business Bureau is a non-profit public service organization that provides consumer protection and education programs to the public. The presentation is free of charge and open to the public.

Quote, unquote . . .

I LOVE LEADING THE BAND. It's my form of expression, the most exciting thing in my life.

— Andover High School grad and current jazz ensemble conductor Anita Brown, whose group was nominated for Grammy Awards this year. (Story in Arts & Entertainment, page 15)

IT'S CLEAR IN THESE ISSUES that society has to make some decisions. Do you put down something that's relatively inexpensive, or put down something that's less environmentally hazardous and costs more?

— Keith Robinson, a hydrologist with the US Geological Survey, who is studying the effect of road salt on ground and drinking water. (Story in News, page 6)

News Calendar

Thursday, Feb. 19

Senior Center Task Force, Senior Center, 36 Bartlet St., noon

Andover Housing Authority, 100 Morton St., Stowe Court Community Room, 7 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 23

School Committee, executive session, school administration building, 3:30 p.m.

Board of Health, Town Offices, second floor, 6-9 p.m.

Selectmen, Town Offices, third floor, 6:30 p.m.; joint meeting with Finance Committee follows, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 24

School Committee, executive session, school administration building, 3:30 p.m.

Town clerk calls for census return

The annual town census for 2004 was mailed to residents during the middle of January. The town clerk's office reported a 75 percent return on the census as of Feb. 4.

The town clerk's office urges residents who have not already returned their census to do so. An accurate count of all residents is important for the town for several reasons – for example, the current population count is the basis for allocation of state and federal funds.

Compliance with this state requirement provides proof of residence to protect voting rights, veterans' bonuses, housing for the elderly and related benefits. Also, people who do not return their census, might affect their active voting status. The town census is the only way the town clerk can verify residency, and that is important for school enrollment, the voting lists, and the maintenance of updated statistics, according to a release from the clerk's office.

Questions? Call the town clerk's office at 978-623-8255.

ing, 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.; regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Planning Board, Town Offices, third floor, 7:30 p.m.

Recycling Committee, Town Offices, second floor, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 25

Shawsheen School Improvement Council, staff room, 3:15 p.m.

School Committee, executive session, school administration building, 3:30 p.m.

Council on Aging, Town Offices, second floor, 6 p.m.

Selectmen, Finance Committee, Town Offices, third floor, 7 p.m.

Patriotic Holiday Committee, Town Offices, assessor's conference room, 7 p.m.

Town Dems meet

The next meeting of the Andover Democratic Town Committee will be held on Monday, Feb. 23 at Marland Place in Andover. A pizza social starts at 7 p.m. and the business meeting begins at 7:30. All registered Democrats are invited. For more information, contact Chair Nancy O'Connor Stolberg at 978-470-2784.

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History of a \$15K helmet

One of the auction items at the recent telethon for the new youth center was an autographed New England Patriots helmet signed by several starters from the Super Bowl champs. How did such a collectible end up in Andover? The story goes like this: Jay Doherty of Doherty Insurance on Elm Street bought one at a sports collectible shop while vacationing in Aspen, Colo. just after the first Patriots Super Bowl victory two years ago. When the team was Houston-bound this year, he tracked down that Aspen store, only to find out it was out of business.

Call it telepathy, but for some reason that former store owner thought about Doherty

and called shortly thereafter to see if Doherty wanted another helmet. Doherty said sure. But after driving by Andover High one day, he saw a sign about the telethon, and called back and ordered two helmets. "I thought it would get about \$2,500 or maybe \$5,000," he said. He was wrong. That helmet brought in \$15,000 for the youth center. The Cronins of Acorn Drive like to collect sports memorabilia and they were the top bidders. "We like to collect and this was something to do as a family. But more importantly it was a way to support the youth center," said Pat Cronin — much to the delight of telethon organizers.

— Judy Wakefield

POLICE LOG

INCIDENTS

Continued from page 2

obtained a key from a neighbor. The girl was home and said the boy had overreacted. The girl's mother arrived home while the police were there.

Thursday, Feb. 12 — At 6:22 a.m., an Enmore Street resident reported her car horn was stuck and the sound was waking up the neighborhood. She called back to say it stopped.

At 12:13 p.m., an ambulance was called to Federal Street to treat a woman who had inhaled chemicals and had difficulty breathing.

At 6:31 p.m., a 3-year-old caused concern when he fell asleep in a closet. His mother couldn't find him and called police.

At 11:32 p.m., there was a domestic disturbance and police reported a lot of yelling and screaming. One party left the house before police arrived. At 12:47 a.m. on Friday morning an Andover woman reported being assaulted at the residence. No one answered the door and

police planned to seek a warrant in the morning.

Saturday, Feb. 14 — At 7:20 a.m., a homeless man and woman were sleeping in a car on Colonial Drive.

AUTO INCIDENTS

Tuesday, Feb. 10 — At 4:26 p.m., a car was reported broken into the night before on Summer Street.

Wednesday, Feb. 11 — At 6:31 p.m., a resident called to report an 18-wheeler flatbed truck driving recklessly on Osgood Street. The truck hit a guardrail and then forced an oncoming car to swerve to avoid hitting it. An officer left a note for the Highway Department to look at the guardrail.

Sunday Feb. 15 — At 1:40 p.m., a Maple Street resident reported her purse stolen from her vehicle.

VANDALISM

There were three reports of vandalism.

COMPILED BY BEN HELLMAN

Center's construction building to its finale

SAFETY CENTER

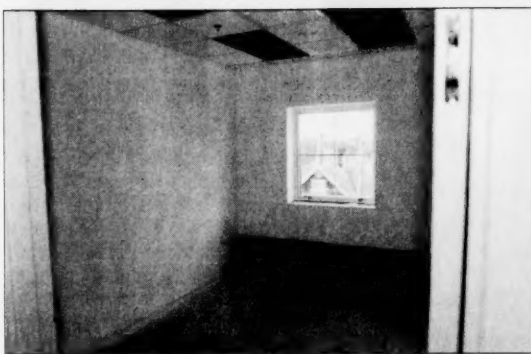
Continued from page 1

center opening on time. Ground was broken in October 2000, and Piantedosi said the project was three months behind as of April 2001. The town had to go back and ask voters at 2001 and 2002 Town Meeting for a combined \$1,065,000.

Stapczynski said there have been times during the project when Mello Construction has not had enough workers on site, but progress has increased during the last six months. "We've had a good level of workers and a good level of progress in recent months. It seems obvious that the contractor wants to finish the job and do a good job. We're pleased with that," said Stapczynski. Stapczynski added he expects work to continue in this fashion until the station is done.

A highlight of the safety center will be a tiered presentation room that will be shared by firefighters and police for training purposes, and will be open to the community at night for meetings. It seats 80 people, has a built-in projection screen and will be wired for Internet access. Stapczynski and Murnane expect selectmen to meet in the room from time to time.

"That's my favorite room,"



One of the dormitory-style rooms, where firefighters will be able to get some rest, at the \$14 million public safety center.

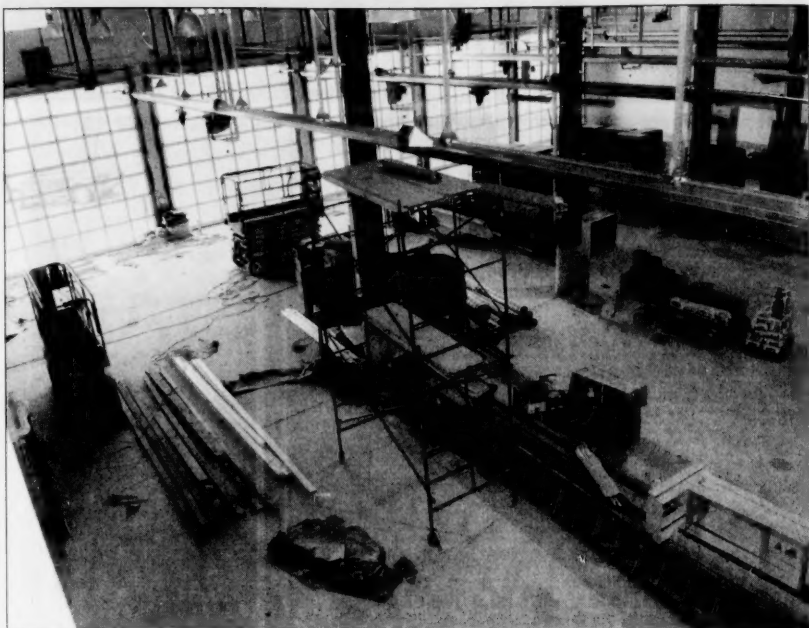


PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

The view from the second floor of the fire-department side of the new safety center includes the "deck," where the fire trucks and ambulances will be parked, ready to respond to emergencies.

said Murnane. The room doubles as an emergency operations center for the town. It will be wired to handle large-scale communication. The room also sits in front of the firefighters' kitchen and lounge. "We're all

set up, we think, for a large-scale event," said Murnane.

The firefighters' dorm rooms are ready to be painted and swept. Firefighters are claiming areas as their own. "The guys have already been up here and are laying claims," said Murnane.

Andover tore down and

rebuilt the police side of the downtown safety center first. When the new police station was finished, the firehouse side of the center was demolished, and firefighters moved into other locations in town. Some have been working out of a temporary facility at Spring Grove Cemetery.



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

The Emergency Operations Center inside Andover's safety center will seat 80 people and have tiered seating when finished.

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Access at issue for Chabad project

■ CONGREGATION

Continued from page 1

"The biggest issue is the intensity of use of the property — traffic, drainage, the visual impact," Planning Director Stephen Colyer said. "No matter what you're building, this much of a change in a residential neighborhood would be noticed."

The Chabad rabbi, Asher Bronstein, and his lawyers and engineers went over the building plan last month with town officials, who found a number of problems, Colyer said. A revised plan addresses some of those issues and will be discussed at a Planning Board meeting Feb. 24. A brochure about the proposed new building is available online at www.chabadmv.com/templates/articlecco.html?AID=66999.

The situation echoes an ongoing battle between a Chabad Jewish temple in Newton and town leaders there, who in December refused to grant the group a waiver from parking regulations, saying it is operating in violation of zoning laws. Around the state, organizations protected by the Dover Amendment often begin meeting in a home and then seek to turn the building into a larger, commercial-style structure despite residents' protests. But Bronstein said his 12-year-old group bought its building at 310 North Main St. specifically because it is in an already busy area.

"Although our property is residential, it happens to be on Route 133 and Route 28. These neighborhoods are more commercially zoned," Bronstein said. "If you look at 310 North Main St, it is a huge property. It will have enough parking. On Shabbat (the Sabbath), people are going to walk. We have people who are walking one and half hours to temple already."

Bronstein and his family live on Marwood Drive, directly behind the Jewish center. In addition to using Old Poor Street, a private driveway between Route 133 and neighboring homes, congregants would use another short road-way that would cross Bronstein's property and allows access through Marwood Drive, he said.



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Chabad Lubavitch would tear down the home it currently uses and build a larger facility near Shawsheen Square, the intersection of Routes 133 and 28.

Residents around Marwood Drive object to the cul-de-sac being turned into a connector road, with a possible increase in traffic, Colyer said.

Thomas Curtin, whose home at 304 North Main St. would be a few feet from the proposed piece of road, detailed a list of potential problems in a letter to the Planning Board.

"Because this access road is designed to serve a parking lot with 56 vehicle spaces, the impact is significantly increased in terms of noise, dust, fumes, and the generally unappealing nature of having a busy access road running within a few feet of my backyard, a place where my family spends a great deal of time enjoying the outdoors," Curtin wrote.

Typically, any change in use of a public road like Marwood Drive would require review by the town, which could require a traffic study. But religious organizations may be exempt from that requirement, Colyer said.

"They didn't provide any traffic information whatsoever," said Colyer, so the town does not know how many cars might use Marwood Drive.

Chabad proposed an expansion project once before in the late 1980s, but Building Inspector Kaija Gilmore refused to give

a building permit, saying the property does not conform to current zoning regulations because it has no direct access to a public road, only a private driveway, Colyer said. The Zoning Board upheld the decision and Chabad appealed to state Superior Court. After several years, the case was dismissed without a judgment being issued, Colyer said.

"I know we have this problem with access over there," Bronstein said. "Somehow we would like that the town should help figure it out, because of the Dover Amendment. We would like them to tell us, 'You know what, guys? We understand you have a worthy cause.' We're putting it in their court, that they should figure out how we can use the property."

TIME FOR REFLECTION



PHOTO BY ROBERT DENNIS

A reflecting pool created by a recent thaw was captured in front of Town Offices on Bartlet Street.

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Experts fear road salt's effect

By Tim Wacker

Salt may make icy sidewalks and streets safer this time of year, but some scientists worry it could poison the Merrimack Valley's natural resources in the long run. They say recent studies reveal dangerous levels of the substance in the soil and water year-round.

"We are seeing an increase of road salt in the Merrimack River," said Keith Robinson, a hydrologist with the US Geological Survey, which has studied its use in the region for the past five years.

"The trend in road salt use is pretty significant" and "will be reflected in decreasing water quality," he said. "As salt use increases, you are going to be seeing the effects."

The specific effects are being studied and are still uncertain, he said. Sand use is generally shunned because it clogs storm drains and fouls streets, resulting in costly spring cleanups. In response, cities and states are increasingly employing rock salt and de-icing chemicals alone. While public works officials say they are curbing their road salt use, some say it's still going up a little through a practice of pre-treating roads with de-icers before a storm hits.

In a study released last year, the Geological Survey found that salt levels have risen tenfold in the Merrimack River since Lawrence drinking water labs started taking measurements in the early-1900s. More alarming, Robinson said, is what's happening in the smaller streams and rivers near major highways and highly developed areas - such as Andover's Fish Brook, which feeds into the town's drinking water supply (see related story, page 1).

Such waterways can see salt

levels climb to three times the federally recommended level of 230 milligrams per liter. That's less than a pinch of salt in a quart of water - hardly enough to taste, but enough to take a toll on cranberry plants, according to research at the University of Massachusetts. Robinson said the Geological Survey has been seeing salt in some streams at 800 to 900 milligrams per liter.

"In small streams draining near larger roads ... that's approaching toxicity levels," Robinson said.

Beyond the UMass cranberry studies, which are lab-based, nobody knows for certain if all this salt is hurting plants and animals in the wild. But everything in the Merrimack Valley is getting saltier. The roads, water, streams, even the dirt has salt enough from winter applications to keep it plentiful in mid-August.

When salt melts, it sinks into the ground then travels with the groundwater towards streams and finally the ocean. Eventually, this process would flush the salt out of soil through the rivers and into the sea, where it's a little more welcome.

But salt is used enough that the soil can't get flushed before more salt is added. Small streams are as salty in August as they are in February. Salt does not break down in the environment. "These compounds persist in the subsurface environment and no reactions take them away," said David Ostendorf, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at UMass Amherst. "It dissolves and then doesn't react with anything."

If salt's impact on plants and animals is still subject to study, its contribution to human heart disease is not. The sodium in salt drives up blood pressure and

has prompted many highway departments to start spreading a de-icer that uses calcium in place of the sodium, especially near reservoirs.

Andover has seen salt levels in its drinking water double during the past five years to twice what is floating in the Merrimack River. "When you see changes in raw water quality, you need to look at what the sources of change are and then see if you can remediate those changes," said Cyndi Vaughn, Andover's water resources coordinator. "From 1983 to 1998 we saw a 5-percent increase in sodium in

our water reservoir at Haggetts Pond. Since then there has been a 100 percent increase."

Vaughn believes the state's salt storage barn at the cloverleaf where Interstates 93 and 495 meet is to blame. Water samples from streams leading to Haggetts Pond get saltier the closer you get to the cloverleaf.

"It's clear in these issues that society has to make some decisions," said Robinson. "Do you put down something that's relatively inexpensive, or put down something that less environmentally hazardous and costs more?"

State, town to huddle

ROAD SALT MEETING

Continued from page 1

way District Environmental Engineer Robert Boone as the state contact to arrange the meeting.

The Fish Brook Initiative Task Force - a group that formed in response to the salt contamination and other potential contaminants - is meeting Tuesday,

Feb. 23 at 7 p.m., at the water treatment plant on Lowell Street. It is the task force's third meeting. The group will discuss setting up a water monitoring system for Fish Brook and alternatives to using road salt.

The Andover Board of Health will meet Monday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m., at Town Offices on the third floor. The board will discuss the Mass Highway meeting.



The town's health director considers the state salt shed, near the junction of Interstates 93 and 495 in Andover, to be a cause of elevated sodium levels in the town's water.

Guest column

Aboard the maiden voyage of Queen Mary 2



Lynn Loscutoff

After flying to London to board the Queen Mary 2 for her maiden voyage from Southampton, England, I was so happy to see a driver holding a placard with my name, Lynn Loscutoff. The ship would be leaving that afternoon, Jan. 12, for its two-week maiden voyage. As the "art mistress," I would be one of 1,300 crew members, in the category of ship's enrichment and entertainment.

Arriving in Southampton, Harry, my driver, steered us along a road that put the Queen Mary 2 in view. She was imposing, towering above us like a giant sculpture. I had read some of the statistics: length overall, 1,332 feet; breadth overall, 135 feet; funnel height above keel, 236.2 feet; cruising speed, 29 knots. I had seen photographs on the news, on the Internet and in literature I received, but until I saw her in all of her majesty, I could not fully understand and appreciate the accomplishment of building the largest cruise ship ever. I understood the cost to build her was \$800 million. She was most famous ocean liner in the world. And I was to be aboard for this historic occasion.

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Continued on page 7

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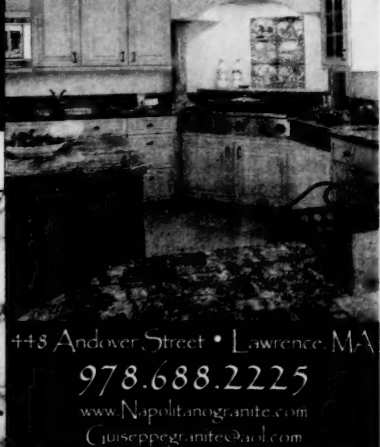
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Teacher negotiations begin Monday

Superintendent's negotiation continues; other superintendents' pacts viewed

By Ben Hellman

The School Committee will begin contract negotiations with teachers this coming Monday, Feb. 23. At the same time, member Art Barber is studying Massachusetts superintendent contracts to continue the process of negotiating Superintendent Claudia Bach's contract.

Andover teachers' current contract ends Tuesday, Aug. 31 and the committee has begun conversations with teachers. In December, both sides spent two days training in "interest-based bargaining" (IBB), a technique used to negotiate the existing contract. Interest-based bargaining assumes that both sides are pursuing common goals. Bach has studied with Roger Fisher, who helped develop the process and has been a leading practitioner.

The technique has all sides

agree to ground rules and then allows them to be more free in brainstorming solutions without having details written in stone, said Bach. "The process becomes very inventive, very creative rather than putting something on the table and having it cast in concrete," said Bach. "It's hugely, hugely time-consuming and it's more challenging in tougher economic times."

Many people believe negotiations might have been complicated when it was made public that School Committee Chairwoman Tina Girdwood had already signed a "memorandum of understanding" that agrees to extend Bach's contract through June 2007 and offer her an annual 3- to 5-percent raise. Nevertheless, Bach and the committee maintain Bach's contract negotiations are on-going. "It's not

done until every detail is done," said Bach. Bach's current contract expires June 30.

Barber has recused himself from the process of teacher negotiations because his wife is an Andover teacher. Even so, he has sat through the meetings and training sessions with his fellow committee members and the teachers who attended, in case he is needed in an emergency — such as if the committee could not gather a quorum to make a decision. But he does not expect such a situation to arise. "I have no intention of participating unless it becomes necessary," said Barber.

Because he will not be an active part of teacher negotiations, Barber has picked up extra responsibilities in negotiating Bach's contract, he says. Barber and member Christopher Smith are also heading Bach's annual

performance evaluation, for which they have requested public input.

Barber has stressed that keeping Bach as superintendent will save the town the cost of a superintendent search. In addition, he claims hiring a new superintendent probably would require offering more money to make the position match the salaries of other local cities and towns. "Previous committees have not kept pace with going rates," said Barber. Bach's salary is currently \$131,644, according to the school's business office.

Barber has received 10 superintendent contracts from the Massachusetts School Committee Association, which Barber will use during the process. Barber hasn't begun to look at them yet. "I'll start analyzing them in another couple of weeks," he said.

Fireworks and smiles greet ship at ports of call

■ GUEST COLUMN

Continued from page 6

The shores of Southampton were lined with people, cars, photographers and merrymakers of all sorts. We toasted with champagne, waved our British flags, threw streamers and watched a fireworks display.

We were a happy, delighted, extraordinary group of people launched on a rare odyssey.

My job was to sign up passengers for two watercolor classes to hold each day at sea.

The first morning out was very choppy through Biscayne Bay. A myriad of passengers flocked to sign in and pick up kits for painting, and I took two motion-sickness pills to keep smiling. I hoped that I would not have to stand at an easel until the seas became calmer.

The response to the classes was overwhelming. I was so busy with setting out materials, doing a painting demonstration, cleaning up and starting over for the afternoon session, that things were in a whirl. It was a shame that we had to turn some eager painters away as the classrooms now designated specifically for painting only held 28 people. Later, I was able to convince the assistant cruise director that I could handle one large class of 60 to 80 and that everyone who was interested could participate.

At first, the passengers seemed reserved, especially the English. As each session passed, everyone relaxed and I was so pleased at the work that was being done. By the end of the cruise, Agnes and I were hugged, and many exclaimed "I will keep in touch!"

I learned that the British call a hug, a cuddle. At any rate, they are always nice to have.

Entertainment

Authors, distinguished speakers, first-rate European entertainers, pianists, comedians, jugglers and classical musicians were brought on board. A wonderful troupe of dancers performed each night and Dame Shirley Bassey, famous for her singing in *Goldfinger*, performed during the first night out. Kate Adie, BBC's chief news correspondent, gave three lectures that I enjoyed immensely and she signed her books as well. A book signing was arranged for me in the library for *A Travelers Guide to Painting with Watercolor and Painters Wild Workshop*. The ship's library and bookstore had the most beautiful library I

have ever been in. Thousands of new books all in glass cases were available for the passengers to borrow. The library was created in a stunning setting overlooking the ship's bow. One could curl up in overstuffed chairs and sit reading, while light poured in through windows overlooking the parting of the surging seas, which created an enormous V-shaped wake.

Royal treatment in ports

When we reached the Canary Islands and Tenerife, homage was paid to the Queen, and we felt like celebrities as we were presented with birds of paradise flowers and straw hats. Agnes and I toured the islands and enjoyed the days off ashore. Fireworks and bands playing on shore helped us enjoy a total of eight sail-away parties on decks 12 and 7.

The most enchanting sight and celebration was at Las Palmas. As we cruised to the port in the early morning, fire boats launched their welcome spray. It was obvious that police boats patrolled in each harbor to ensure our safe arrival, but in Las Palmas, as the day became light and the island came closer into view we could see that the movement on the docks was thousands of people there to welcome us. They waved, cheered and blew kisses. We later learned that 70,000 people had come during the day to view the ship from shore. The people of Las Palmas had been given the day off from work, a holiday, and we were the reason. As we left the ship, people reached across the barriers to shake our hands. We felt like visiting royalty, as I guess our ship, the Queen Mary 2, certainly was. Once again, upon leaving, we stood on the top deck and the bridge and were treated with an amazing fireworks display for at least a half hour. The citizens on shore stayed and waved flags and banners. Small boats followed us from a distance, pilot boats sprayed water and our visit became an occasion to remember for all.

Dining

The dining rooms were elegant. On formal evenings, passengers dressed elegantly as well. The atmosphere of dignity and splendor was constant in every aspect of the voyage. One could make reservations at the

variety of restaurants on board or dine at an assigned table. The international flavor of the trip was made even more significant as we shared dinner with passengers from many countries.

We made many new friends. Some of the passengers might join me when I take a group to paint in Monet's Garden in September. I am certain that I will see some of them again on other cruises, but nothing will be the same as this.

My favorite part of a cruise is arriving in a port in the early morning. The sun is rising, lights in homes and offices are coming on and the activities of the day are beginning.

I cry at parades. Coming into Fort Lauderdale, back to the US, was a big parade.

The fireboats were spewing red and blue streams of water. A military transport ship with the crew in full dress saluted us from the water. On land, WELCOME QUEEN MARY 2 was written in huge letters in the sand. People in the high-rise buildings along

the entrance to the port hung out signs and banners, and the passengers, including Agnes and myself, waved American flags, and took movies and photographs. Yes, many of us shed tears. It was truly an emotional moment. We were a part of history.

Back to reality

As "snow birds" living in Naples, Fla. during the winter, my husband, Jim Loscutt, and I are looking forward to returning to our home in Andover in the spring. We have been involved with Camp Evergreen for 40 years and that is where our heart still is. But this trip — the first of its kind — will be inscribed in my most fond memories book.



Sisters Agnes Newdell and Lynn Loscutt.

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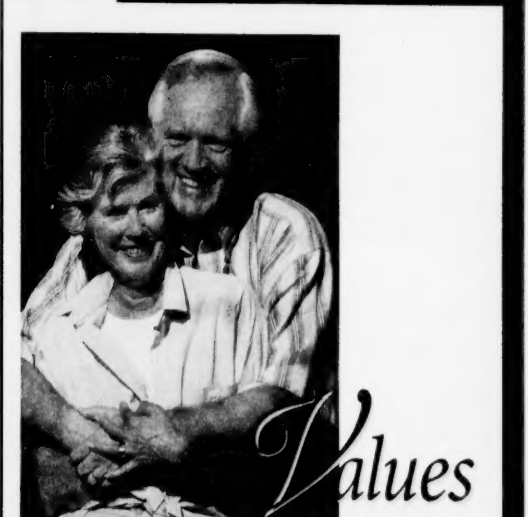
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Business

BRIEFS

Teacher selected to lead reading workshops

Betty A. Singleton, owner of the Andover Tutoring Connection and a part-time special education teacher in Andover, was selected from a pool of 146 teachers by the Massachusetts Department of Education in a joint venture with Partnership for the Achievement of Reading to conduct workshops for teachers in Lowell, in March on the five components of reading. This initiative is part of the "No Child Left Behind Law 2001" that supports all children reading competently by the time they finish third grade. Singleton conducted several workshops last summer, in school systems across Massachusetts that received federal grants, allowing these systems to participate in these workshops and receive materials, games and books on the five components of reading to use in their classrooms.

Three residents elected to the Museum of Science boards

Jaishree Deshpande, Louise Park MacMillan, and Walter Stafford, all of Andover, have recently been elected to the Museum of Science Board of Trustees and Overseers. Deshpande was elected as a trustee and both MacMillan and Stafford have been elected as overseers.

The individual trustees of the Museum of Science are united by a strong commitment to supporting the museum and its mission. They act as ambassadors for the museum to the broad cross-section of professions and community and cultural backgrounds which they represent, said a museum release. Deshpande is the director of the Family Foundation. After receiving a masters in physics from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras in 1975, she worked in Bangalore for the Indian Space Research Organization. In 1980, she moved to Canada and worked for the Ontario Geological Survey as a computer programmer. Deshpande moved to Boston in 1984 and obtained a masters in computer science from Boston University. She has worked as a software engineer in several Massachusetts companies and has taught a variety of computer courses.

The Museum of Science Overseers is a group of community leaders and friends with a special interest in Science, technology and education who support the mission of the museum: "To stimulate interest in and further understanding of science and technology and their importance for individuals and for society," said the museum release. The role of the museum overseer includes a commitment by each overseer to be actively involved in the museum through an individually appropriate mix of energy, expertise and financial resources. Also, the overseer role provides opportunities for experience and leadership for potential new museum trustees.

MacMillan holds degrees from the University of California at Berkeley (BS), the Harvard School of Public Health (MS), and the Stanford University Graduate School of Business (MBA). She has worked in Latin America and southern Africa with international aid organizations as well as with migrant farm workers in northern California. Her current involvements include the Harvard Nutrition Round table and the Harvard School of Public Health Leadership Council, the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors for the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club, the Education Outreach Committee for the Addison Art Gallery at Phillips Academy and the Diversity Action Committee for Pike School.

Stafford is the senior scientist and director of computer science at Boston Biomedical research Institute and associate in the department of neurology at Harvard Medical School. He received a bachelor's degree in chemistry at Lake Forest College in 1966. Stafford also received a doctorate in biophysics at the University of Connecticut in 1973.

Melrose's True to lead area at Danvers Savings Bank

Scott True has been promoted to leader of the Small Business Administration Lending Department at Danvers Savings Bank, an \$840 million financial institution with 12 full-service locations including one in Andover.

"I have no doubt that the growth the department has experienced over the last twenty years will continue with Scott at the helm," said Kevin Bottomley, president and CEO.



Scott True

CO₂ discovery evacuates Marshall's

Eight sent to local hospitals as result of fumes from propane-powered floor buffer

By O'Ryan Johnson and Ben Hellman

Fire officials say carbon monoxide fumes from a propane-powered floor buffer forced the evacuation of a Shawsheen Plaza department store and sent eight people to local hospitals on Tuesday.

Fire Deputy Albert Del Dotto said someone called the Fire Department around 10:45 a.m. to report a gas leak at Marshall's in Shawsheen Plaza on Route 28. Using a handheld environmental monitor, firefighters scanned the air and determined the leak was carbon monoxide.

Firefighters evacuated the store then turned on fans to air out the building. Del Dotto said initially two people asked to be hospitalized

for severe headaches, a symptom synonymous with exposure to carbon monoxide, he said.

Six more had similar complaints, prompting a call for help to the North Andover Fire Department, which took additional patients to Lawrence General Hospital and Caritas Holy Family Hospital in Methuen. Del Dotto said none of the injuries were life-threatening. The names of the patients were not available.

Andover Police Officer Pele James said he was called to control the crowd shortly after the alarm sounded, but that most customers were gone when he arrived. He remained at the scene to assist rescue workers.

A Marshall's spokesman could not provide

the number of customers or workers inside the store at the time of the incident.

Andover Fire Deputy Lincoln Clark said the floor buffer might have been malfunctioning and has been taken out of service. "I think it was malfunctioning because that's a very common appliance to be used in that sort of area," said Clark.

Carbon monoxide is odorless, but Clark said the smell of other combustion byproducts was immediately noticeable in the store. "When I walked in there you could definitely tell there was something," he said.

The store reopened for business Tuesday afternoon.

Turning a hobby into a business

Resident uses her photography to make and sell Andover-themed greeting cards

By Andrea Gregory

A childhood hobby has turned into a new career for Dianne DeLucia, who has created a greeting card company called Little Brown Cat.

When she was 5, DeLucia began taking her first snapshots. Photography grew into a lifelong hobby. Now, after a career in the biotech industry, she has found a creative outlet through her work with Little Brown Cat. DeLucia operates the business from her home.

DeLucia makes photo greeting cards. She says her company is off to a strong start, having sold more than 1,500 cards in its first year.

The name of her company is a tribute to her two feline companions of more than a decade. The actual little brown cat, Grendel, recently died. But she says the company logo is a spitting image of another cat, Killian, that is still purring by her side.

Cat lovers find the pictures of her four-legged friends adorable, she says. The cards of her cats remain among her company's top sellers. "People just love the Grendel face, and they love (the cards with) Killian sleeping," she says. "They are my special buddies."

At least twice each week, DeLucia seeks out new images to add to her greeting card collection. But she does not have to travel far from home. Most of her photographs are of nature scenes such as butterflies landing on flowers or squirrels running through her backyard.

"My backyard is my laboratory, practically. I don't have to go far for some of these," she says.

Her cards are all blank inside, allowing them to be suitable for a variety of occasions.

"There is a place still for the hand-written note, and sometimes people just like a beautiful note," she says.

DeLucia has snapped pictures of local churches and other Andover landmarks for her cards. She says people attach their own sentimental value to certain places in town, and that her cards can be the perfect way to express treasured memories. She says if a couple gets married in an Andover church, one of her cards could make great thank-you notes or a fitting anniversary card.

She also takes custom photographs to make personal cards.



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Dianne DeLucia, who started the Little Brown Cat greeting-card business, holds her cat Killian. Behind her are some of the cards she has created using her own photography.

She says the cards she has created for bar or bat mitzvahs, weddings and other special events can become keepsakes from an important day.

"People still want to keep in touch, and I think sharing photographs with family and loved ones is important," she says.

Soon after starting Little Brown Cat, DeLucia began working with nonprofit organizations. She has a collection of cards illustrating the work of Challenge Unlimited, a therapeutic program for disabled people at Ironstone Farm in Andover. She has taken many photographs of the horses the people ride there. Some of her greeting cards are for sale at Ironstone Farm. She says a portion of the proceeds goes toward the pro-

gram. DeLucia has also made personalized cards of children riding horses for several of their families.

Although her greeting cards capture local images, DeLucia is hoping to expand her clientele by using the Internet. Her Web site went live this week. She says she is hoping that people everywhere will want to mail Andover images to their friends and family.

"My intent was to make people smile by looking at the world in whimsical ways. And I'm hoping Little Brown Cat will always do that," says DeLucia. "It's just gratifying for me to capture a moment that will make people smile for years."

More information about Little Brown Cat can be found at www.little-brown-cat.com.



IMAGES FROM GREETING CARDS

DeLucia has photographed Andover subjects for her cards, starting with her cats...



...and including Andover buildings and other town landmarks ...



...and even the horses at Ironstone Farm.

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Education



PHOTOS BY TIM JEAN
At the Four Winds restaurant, Dorothy Birtles (left) and Geri Spatola are served lunch by students Yosmely Then (standing, left) and Kathy Beltran of Greater Lawrence Technical School's hotel/resturant management program. The school is nearing the final stages of a \$51 million renovation and expansion project.

At right, a mathematics class in the Freshman Academy Wing at the Tech School. ▶



Greater Lawrence Technical School

Biotechnology program among new offerings at Tech School

By Ben Hellman

THE GREATER LAWRENCE TECHNICAL SCHOOL will launch a new program in biotechnology next September. The school is in the process of hiring teachers and formalizing a course of study that administrators expect will offer graduates entry-level opportunities in laboratory work.

The school is waiting for the construction completion of a new biotechnology wing, the last step in a \$51 million, multi-year building project that has modernized the school's facilities

and made the school's retail, salon and dining services more accessible to the public. The school's two restaurants, salon and retail areas opened to the public last spring. Superintendent Frank Vacirca expects the new science wing to open for classes in September.

Andover students are eligible to attend the school, but few choose to do so each year, said Vacirca. This year, only 14 Andover students attend the school, but he hopes biotechnology and the new science facility will appeal to more local students.

Ellen Gilbert, the school's director of cluster academies, is overseeing the planning of the new biotechnology program. Gilbert is currently working on plans to present to the Massachusetts Department of Education, which certifies technical and vocational programs. Gilbert said the biotechnology program is an important one for students who have traditionally taken the vocational school route. "These are the jobs of the future. We all know it's a wide-open field," said Gilbert.

The program will offer students the

necessary background to work in a variety of technician-level positions in laboratories, said Gilbert. Students could also choose to continue their studies at two- or four-year college programs, and the high school program should bring them educational opportunities, she said. "These biotech companies are so willing to pay for education for their employees," said Gilbert.

The science and technology wing will include biotechnology and telecommunications departments and also new chemistry and physics labs,

which will be important to give students a stronger background in science, said Gilbert.

Gilbert and Melinda Joncas, the advanced science and technology cluster leader, are currently getting ready for science to be tested as part of the MCAS exam.

Last year, GLTS students made the biggest improvement in their MCAS scores of any public school in Massachusetts. The school went from having 61 percent of students passing to 91 percent passing.

Recipes for success: Matching students on IEPs with colleges

Parent to Parent and SEPAC will present an information night called



Janice Goldstein

"College Options for Students on IEPs" from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, at West Middle School auditorium.

This free presentation addresses the topic of college selection for students who are on Individualized educational plans (IEPs).

Area psychologists Janice Goldstein, PhD, and Kate Goldfield, MEd, will discuss aspects of preparing students for their transition from high school to college. Topics presented will include how to locate appropriate programs for teens, and understanding what is expected of students once they begin their college level education.

Both Goldstein and Goldfield have been working with students and their families addressing this topic for more than 20 years. Joining them will be admissions staff from several selected colleges with support programs — Dean College in Franklin, N.H.; and Roger Williams College in Rhode Island — who will discuss the kind of student who succeeds at their college and how to match students and college settings.

Presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

All Speaker Series events are free and open to the public.



Kate Goldfield

With overcrowded classrooms, High Plain parents consider 'creative options' — but not redistricting

By Ben Hellman

THE MESSAGE FROM HIGH PLAIN Elementary School parents to the School Committee continues to be: Don't redistrict anyone.

But High Plain Elementary will face overcrowding in the coming years, leading a group of parents, teachers and Principal Brenda O'Brien to brainstorm other, creative solutions they can offer

the school administration and School Committee.

Parents advocated using available classroom space at Wood Hill Middle School as a quick fix to the overcrowding problem, said Martha Hyslip, High Plain Elementary Parent Teacher Organization president.

Other recommendations were:

- Providing limited school choice for

students in classrooms that are larger than the mid-point average of the School Committee's classroom policy

- Sending students who will live in future housing developments to bordering neighborhood schools

- Marketing the Shawsheen School to parents of K-2 students

High Plain Elementary is projected to be 2 percent over capacity during the 2004-05 school year, said Hyslip. She cautioned against redistricting because in the tough financial year ahead, no school is going to be allowed to have markedly smaller student/teacher ratios than the others. "If you take 60 to 80 students out, you're going to lose staff," said Hyslip.

Superintendent Claudia Bach's charge to parents in October 2003 was to find creative solutions to overcrowding without impacting other schools, moving students with special education plans or increasing the budget, said Hyslip. Parents made it clear before the study started that redistricting was an unpopular option, as many of their children had been switched from familiar schools the year before.

Wood Hill Middle Principal Norah McCarthy came to the rescue, offering High Plain Elementary the use of two classrooms, which could be used for art and music classes, said Hyslip. The fix will help the school through two school years, after which the population is expected to decline, said Hyslip. "It was never meant to be a long-term solution," said Hyslip.

Capping grades K-2 at High Plain Elementary at the midpoint of the School Committee's class-size policy, and sending any additional students to the Shawsheen School, was a suggestion Hyslip believes will not be an option. But the group was asked to think outside the box, she said. "It wasn't our charge to come up with viable options. It was our charge to come up

with creative options," said Hyslip. She said the School Committee will make the final decision.

(The School Committee set a policy on classroom staffing in March 1995. The policy lists the minimum and maximum amount of students who should be taught by one classroom teacher. The policy sets the midpoint average of 20 students per class for kindergarten, with a maximum of 24 per classroom; 23 students per class for grades 1 and 2, with a maximum of 27 per classroom; and 25 students per class for grades 3 to 6, with a maximum of 29 per classroom.)

The group met with Schools Business Manager Bernie Tuttle and retired Transportation Coordinator Carol Znamierowski to get expert opinions on population trends, said Hyslip. They also met with High Plain Elementary gym teachers and a media specialist to get opinions on how extra students would stress the school's infrastructure and related classes. Hyslip said the specialists' consensus was that they could handle the extra students. "I think the process was very considerate of the kids. I'm very confident we're not bursting at the seams," said Hyslip.

High Plain Elementary has faced overcrowding concerns since it opened in September 2002. Parents asked for help in the summer 2003 when many classes at High Plain were expected to be larger than a typical Andover classroom this fall. Third-grade classrooms were projected to have 28 to 29 students — 29 is the largest number of third-grade students the committee's policy tolerates in one class.

Only one parent accepted the system's offer to move third-graders to a neighboring school in September 2003. The school administration found enough money to hire an extra third-grade teacher at High Plain Elementary before school began in September.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Here's what's for lunch in the Andover public schools next week, Feb. 23-27:

Elementary schools

Monday: Barbecued ribs over white rice, nachos with side of pineapple, baked chicken nuggets with cranberry sauce, fruit and veggie.

Tuesday: Barbecued chicken with potato and peas, chocolate chip pancakes, pizza stick with soft pretzel, fruit, veggie and milk.

Wednesday: Macaroni and cheese with roll, toasted cheese with tomato soup, pizza ring, fruit, veggie, milk and peach cobbler.

Thursday: Tacos with salsa and white rice, french toast with sausage, baked chicken nuggets, fruit, veggie and milk.

Friday: Cheese quesadilla with corn, hot dog with oven-baked fries, slice of pizza, fruit, veggie, milk and vanilla pudding.

Doherty Middle School

Monday: Chicken McSchool, corn dog on a stick, nachos with taco meat and cheese, fruit, veggie and milk.

Tuesday: Hot turkey sandwich, spaghetti and meatballs, baked chicken

nuggets, fruit, veggie and milk.

Wednesday: Fish-and-chips, mozzarella sticks, fried chicken with mashed potato, fruit, veggie and milk.

Thursday: Waffles with sausage, two hot dogs with chips, two tacos with rice, fruit, veggie and milk.

Friday: Beef-and-cheese sub, stuffed crust pizza, baked chicken nuggets, fruit, veggie and milk.

Secondary schools

Monday: Chicken McSchool, stuffed crust pizza, macaroni and meatballs, fruit, veggie and milk.

Tuesday: Two toasted cheese sandwiches with chips, french toast with sausage, baked stuffed shells, fruit, veggie and milk.

Wednesday: Oven-baked chicken with potato, bagel pizza, meatball sub with chips, fruit, veggie and milk.

Thursday: Roast pork dinner, two hot dogs with chips, chicken parm sandwich, fruit, veggie and milk.

Friday: Two beefy burritos, stuffed crust pizza, spaghetti and meat sauce, fruit, veggie and milk.

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Opinion

ON BUDGET

Negotiations will go long way to solution

WHEN TOWN MEETING ARRIVES at the end of April, residents will have a number of important decisions to make about town spending. But perhaps the most significant choices impacting Andover's future will be made by elected officials behind closed doors.

The School Committee plans to sit down on Monday with Andover's teachers union to begin negotiating a new contract, to take effect next school year. Such contracts have the largest effect on the budget, because the bulk of Andover's spending pays for employees' salaries.

Whether one is talking about the teachers union and the School Committee, or another town union and the selectmen, both sides need to work together to ensure that a new agreement will not force the town to eliminate more positions and programs. Unions will have to be realistic with their demands. Officials will have to be firm, but creative.

Negotiating this new contract will be the most significant work most town officials do to provide a better future for the town.

Web question

How much preference should town give religious groups' projects?

Last week's *Townsmen* Web-site question was: Which officials would have you reaching for the checkbook if they were willing to shave off their hair for a good cause?

20 people voted.

3, or 15 percent, said, "Town Manager Buzz Stapeczynski should definitely do this. It would show true dedication to the youth of Andover."

2, or 10 percent, said, "I think the selectmen should do it as a team effort. (Sorry, Mary, this includes you too.)"

1, or 5 percent, said, "The School Committee should do it as a team effort, though the money should go to help its budget."

9, or 45 percent, said, "Superintendent Claudia Bach, again with the money going to educational efforts."

2, or 10 percent, said, "Larry Larsen has the perfect head of white hair and is totally behind the youth cause. I want to see him with a new look, and a new youth center."

3, or 15 percent, said, "Other."

This week's Web-site question: **Chabad Lubavitch Jewish Center of Merrimack Valley at 310 North Main St. in Shawshen Square wants to expand its center, but is meeting with trouble from the town because of zoning concerns. Should the town strictly enforce regulations when dealing with religious institutions seeking to serve community members?**

• Yes, traffic is bad enough in this town and we have to think about curbing projects that impact the town's roads.

• Yes, for another reason.

• The town should try to arrive at a compromise, considering the effects on residents who both are and are not in the particular congregation seeking expansion.

• No, the Dover Amendment allows greater flexibility when dealing with such institutions for a reason. The town should give special considerations to allow congregations to expand.

• No, for another reason.

• Other.

To vote, surf to www.andovertownsmen.com.

LETTERS POLICY

THE *Townsmen* accepts letters to the editor from the community. Letters must be typed and no longer than two, double-spaced pages. All letter writers must include addresses and phone numbers with their letters. The phone numbers will not be published.

The paper reserves the right to edit letters at its discretion. Reasons for editing include editing for length, clarity and style.

Letters should be received by the *Townsmen* by Monday at 5 p.m. for consideration in that week's paper. They may be sent by mail, fax or e-mail. As a general rule, the paper does not publish anonymous letters or thank-you letters.

It also does not publish letters for candidates in the issue prior to an election.

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VACATION



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

From left, 9-year-olds Cam Dwyer and Corey Gerrior race up Thresher Road as they practice stick-handling during their school vacation week on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

LETTERS

Support for new senior center

Editor, *Townsmen*:

Although we are no longer Andover residents, my wife and I continue to use the senior center. It is a great resource for seniors and does credit to the town of Andover.

Before moving from Andover, I served on the Council on Aging for about 10 years and did a stint as chairman. During that time we tried to get a new senior center built. It was (and still is) much needed, as the current one is really too small and not well equipped for the population it serves. We made a number of false starts, some of which I supported, others of which I opposed.

Last week I saw the options developed by the current building committee. I am delighted to say these options are on the mark. I know that this is a difficult time because of budget constraints, but I urge all Andover residents to get behind the current efforts and finally build a new center for their seniors. I commend the members of the committee for their work.

Martin Epstein
Haverhill

Putting respect before ponytail

Editor, *Townsmen*:

The Andover youth center telethon was about more than hair and money. It was really about community involvement at its best. As usual, Bill Fahey set the example for all of us by being a man of his word – if he said he would cut off his locks, even tears from his daughter would not keep him from remaining true to his words. Our kids expect that they can rely on him and he again earned their respect – and what better message in our image-conscious society. Hair will grow back, but not integrity.

Everyone who participated, from the elementary schools' dancers, to the Super Bowl-helmet bidders is now part of the youth-center project. How much money was raised was terrific, but what really matters in the long run is that it is being done in a way that engages the entire community.

Steven Golden
Carol Tanski
13 Robandy Road

About 'Thursday File'

Steve MacDowall started the file on the Internet. The Web site for his creation is www.hudson-vanloo.ca and it suggests books to read and offers quotations such as the ones on this page.

Violence outside clinics is an issue worthy of attention

Editor, *Townsmen*:

Although I admire the commitment of the women who picket a clinic every week ("Andover abortion foes take to streets," *Townsmen*, Feb. 5), I do not respect the intimidating atmosphere such people create. The suffering caused by sidewalk picketers needs to be told.

I have a friend who is a dedicated clinic administrator. During her years at a Pensacola, Fla. clinic, two doctors have been murdered and an escort critically wounded. This fall, the police notified her that a picketer outside her clinic fit the psycholog-

ical profile of the murderer of one doctor and the wounding of the escort.

My friend walks through lines of picketers every day because she is dedicated to the right of every woman to decide when and if she will become a mother. Her clinic offers counselors who are trained to help women with their decisions and to avoid future unplanned pregnancies. Some of the women who leave the clinic may not have been influenced by "sidewalk counselors," but by the qualified counselors within the clinic. Pro-choice groups train

escorts for women who are frightened by the protesters. Also, the escorts are trained to be a peaceful presence when the atmosphere outside the clinic becomes toxic. Their work takes courage and their stories need to be told.

I know that the women whose story the *Townsmen* told would never participate in violence, but the statistics on clinic violence are incredibly high and those who work in clinics never know when violence will erupt.

Faith Adams Johnson
104 Elm Street
Georgetown

Capital projects can be delayed, not math instruction

Editor, *Townsmen*:

Since learning about the elimination of advanced math in our middle schools last May, I have been talking with parents, school administration, and school board members about this issue. Everyone I have talked with has been courteous and thoughtful, and has the best interest of the students at heart. What I see is a fundamental philosophical difference on how middle school math should be taught.

In the 1960s and '70s, superiority in math and science was viewed as critical to our nation's security. With the current loss of technology jobs overseas, superiority in math and science is still critical to our nation's future. I believe if a student is interested and motivated, he or she should be allowed to move at a faster pace. In contrast, the current middle-school philosophy is that it is more important to group students "heterogeneously," i.e., to place a mix of students in all classes, and to give all students the same basic education. Stu-

dents who want to learn more can do extra activities on their own, after they complete the regular work. They are encouraged to join clubs after school, and their parents are encouraged to hire tutors after school. Ideally, if a teacher has the time and resources available, the teacher can also supplement the basic curriculum by "differentiation," which is teaching students at different levels within the same classroom.

The schools have had a lot on their plate in recent weeks, including the time-on-learning issue at the high school and the current financial shortfall. I hope that after these issues have been resolved we can have an open dialog concerning middle-school math. I am encouraged by the recent announcement by Assistant Superintendent Marcia O'Neil that the middle schools will soon start to supplement their math programs with the Drexel Math Forum Web site. I think this is a great idea, and hopefully the first of many steps

to challenge all of our students. It shows that the schools are listening to parental concerns and taking action.

Two years ago, many parents voted against the tax override to "send the schools a message." If parents want to send the schools a message, they should send them an e-mail, meet with them or call them on the phone. They could go to a meeting and get into a debate. But when it comes time to fund our children's education, I hope they will send our kids the message that their education matters. Residents should tell our Board of Selectmen that our schools need to be priority No. 1, ahead of all of the other items in the budget. I would rather see my tax dollars spent on education than on new water meters, new town vehicles, or pretty much any of the other items on the town budget. Many of these capital improvements can be deferred. Our children's education cannot.

Larry Kushner
14 Brady Loop

THE THURSDAY FILE

We had better live as we think, otherwise we shall end up by thinking as we have lived.

PAUL BOURGET
FRENCH AUTHOR (1852-1935)

Winning is a habit; so is losing.

VINCE LOMBARDI

When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.

HELEN KELLER

And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom.

ANNAIS NIN

The most powerful force in business is love.

TIM SANDERS,
CHIEF SOLUTIONS OFFICER,
YAHOO

The perplexity of life arises from there being too many interesting things in it for us to be interested properly in any of them.

G.K. CHESTERTON

In order to have a real relationship with our creativity, we must take the time and care to cultivate it.

JULIA CAMERON

A kind heart is a fountain of gladness, making everything in its vicinity freshen into smiles.

WASHINGTON IRVING

Good friends are good for your health.

IRWIN SARASON

Beneath the rule of men entirely great, the pen is mightier than the sword.

EDWARD BULWER-LYTTON

The Oscar Wilde quotation

I always pass on good advice. It is the only thing to do with it. It is never of any use to oneself.

Best quotation sent

Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being. Each of us owes thanks to those who have rekindled this light.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER

LETTERS

TOWN ELECTION

Business-like approach, balance offered by candidate Silberstein

Editor, *Townsmen*:

I am writing in support of Debra Silberstein's candidacy for election to the School Committee. I have known Silberstein for many years; she has long been very involved in and cared deeply about our public schools.

I have also worked with Silberstein professionally for many years.

In my capacity as a financial consultant in town, I work with individuals on their estate and financial plans. My clients often require help with wills, trusts and, particularly in the case of the elderly, long term care and

Medicaid/Medicare planning. As an attorney practicing in Andover and specializing in these areas, Silberstein deals with these sensitive subjects with compassion, intelligence and a calm professionalism that my clients find most reassuring.

Silberstein sees problems with a business-like and balanced eye. Having lived in Andover for many years and having been active on the elementary, middle and high school parent boards, she understands the problems before us, and she insists on considering all sides of an issue.

This ability to study financial and legal situations with a very fair thoroughness typified her service to the town on our Financial Committee over the last several years.

Above all else, Silberstein is an energetic and excellent communicator who really cares. She is a "straight shooter" in every respect, and those who know her know well her passion for our children and the educations they receive.

With the difficult financial challenges facing our town and schools at the present time, we need an intelligent, well-reasoned and well-informed individual to represent our citizens on the School Committee. Silberstein is such a person and she will work intelligently and diligently for all of us.

For Silberstein, this is a "sticker" campaign. I feel strongly that placing the preprinted sticker with Silberstein's name on it on the School Committee ballot and voting for Silberstein on election day will yield great benefits to our children in the years ahead.

Ronald R. Hill
15 Abbot St.

Neighborhood opposition should have been noted in gas-station piece

Editor, *Townsmen*:

How nice of the *Townsmen* to do public relations for the people who currently wish to purchase the facilities at Lund's Automotive Services in South Andover ("New set of pumps," *Townsmen*, Feb. 5).

While I appreciate and understand the need to report the goings-on in our town, I was stunned by the apparent lack of consideration for the other side of the issue. The postponement of a decision should have been a clue that there was more to the story. This piece ran like one of the newspaper's paid "spotlights" in the classified section. Did it occur to the paper to contact the neighbors and give them the chance to express their views about the horrors of increased traffic, industrial lighting, the safety of their children and the detritus of coffee cups and paper bags that will confront those who surround this site? Did it ever occur to it to mention that this property is, and always has been, zoned residential? Does the paper realize that this spot is both a stop for the school system and Trombly Bus Lines?

I was contacted by both the editor and reporter after I called

to inquire about this article. I appreciate the responsiveness of the *Townsmen*, but still can't help feeling that the ball was dropped here. Not only is this a concern for the immediate neighborhood, it is a larger issue for the town.

Fortunately the Zoning Board of Appeals voted unanimously Saturday, Feb. 7, to deny the variances required for the presented plans. But this could be simply Round 1 and we all must be vigilant about protecting the integrity of our neighborhoods.

In South Andover we have already endured three schools/day care facilities, not to mention landscaping companies which have been allowed to park trucks, plows, backhoes and equipment on their front lawns. Do we want this gateway to our lovely community to become a strip of commercial properties?

Vicki B. Herlich
432 South Main Street

Writer offers justification of traditional marriage

Editor, *Townsmen*:

All peoples, whether they are secular or religious-minded, should think through the full set of reasons why marriage has been and should continue to be defined as being solely between one man and one woman:

- Human rights: Gays in our country have the same rights and protections as any citizen, plus added protections under recently passed anti-hate crimes legislation. Because two people are of one sex and by definition cannot be married is recognition of a physical reality, not a loss of personal freedom.

- Social justice: Gay marriage is depicted by its proponents as a matter of social justice. It is not necessary to change the institution of marriage to deal with any inequities under the law. These can be corrected by health care-benefit coverage, inheritance changes and other civil remedies that are mostly already in place.

- Political process: Our system of democracy is seriously threatened when four unelected judges in one state can overturn more than 200 years of civil law without a vote by the people. This type of governance makes our country no different than the

clergy-led tribunals in Iran today or dictatorships throughout the world.

- Societal good: Our government exists to take care of the welfare of the overall society with the rights of the individual subordinated to the societal good. Traditional marriage is a societal building block, because it supports the procreation and raising of children, which benefits our society socially and economically, as well as sustains it. Support for traditional marriage by our government is no different than our government requiring that all taxpayers support public education; because it is for the societal good.

- Personal freedoms: Much progress has been made in protecting gays from overt discrimination and acts of violence,

however, every citizen of this commonwealth does not have to accept homosexuality as simply a lifestyle choice and the moral equivalent of heterosexuality. This is what acceptance of gay marriage implies and when it is enforced by hate crimes legislation, no one will have the right to say that gay marriage is wrong. As such, the current gay marriage law is an attack on people's rights of thought and expression.

Two hundred years of civil law and 2,000 years of moral law existed for important reasons. As such, we the people must demand an open debate and our right to vote in a referendum in support of traditional marriage in 2006.

John Carlson
One Golden Oaks Lane

Letter on gay marriage not appropriate

Editor, *Townsmen*:

I deeply question your judgment in printing the letter from the Houghs in last week's newspaper (*Townsmen*, Feb. 12).

The content was, in my mind, not fit for a family paper. That people feel entitled to comment on the most personal aspects of others' lives is one thing, but to allow the discussion to extend to matters of sexual intimacy seems inappropriate for this public forum.

Margot Waltz
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Attorney Marybeth McInnis

Estate planning with the right attorney is a crucial life decision. For some people it is not one they relish having to make. Some procrastinate, and some never get around to it. Attorney Marybeth McInnis and McInnis Law Offices can take the anxiety out of making that first move. Estate and Tax planning is what they do exclusively. Continuing their legal education constantly in this field, clients can be assured their beneficiaries will receive not only what they wish for them to receive, but all the law allows.

Attorney Marybeth McInnis, together with her father, Attorney James McInnis, believe foremost in establishing a good working relationship with clients. This happens when clients are comfortable and confident that their decisions and wishes will be heard and respected. For much of their work, McInnis Law Offices charges a flat fee so clients can feel free to explore their feelings, express their wishes, and become informed by asking questions. Estate planning gives a person the opportunity to determine themselves, within the boundaries of the law, how

their assets are distributed. Dying without a will forces the state to take charge. Children and family members in that situation are subject to the decisions of strangers. For the elderly, selecting someone they trust to have Power of Attorney is a decision that should be made while healthy and clear thinking because it is as important a decision as one can make in a lifetime.

Attorney Marybeth McInnis grew up in North Andover and continues to live in the community with her husband. She is a member of the American Bar Association, the Boston Bar Association's Estate Planning Committee, and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. She is also a Director of the Friends of Merrimack College, Trustee of the James W. O'Brien Foundation, Inc., and is also licensed to practice in New Hampshire as well as Massachusetts.

McInnis Law Offices is at 807 Turnpike St. (Rte. 114) in North Andover. The office is comfortable and sunny with convenient parking. Call for an appointment at 978-686-6112.

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OBITUARIES

James Beatty Evans Jr.

Was an electrical engineer at Bell Labs

James Beatty Evans Jr., 78, of Andover, died Sunday, Feb. 15 at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Boston.

He was an electrical engineer at Bell Labs before retiring in 1981.

Born in Washington, D.C., Mr. Evans was a member of St. Augustine Church.

Members of his family include his wife, Elizabeth S. (Stohman) Evans; daughters, Carolyn M. Evans of Andover, Nancy and her husband John Machuzak of North Andover, Elizabeth Ann Evans of Nashua, N.H., and Catherine and her husband Rene LeClaire of Los Alamos, N.M.; sons, James B. Evans III and his wife Mary of Cocoa Beach, Fla., Martin W. Evans and his wife Pamela of Palm Bay, Fla., Daniel L. Evans and his wife Maryann of Rockledge, Fla., and William M. Evans of Haverhill; brother, William Evans of Ormand Beach, Fla.; sister, Patricia Evans of Rutherfordton, N.C.; eight grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Burial was in West Parish Garden Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Arrangements were by Burke Funeral Home, 390 N. Main St., Andover.

Nora A. Hollyday

Was active at her church

Nora A. (Alverson) Hollyday, 84, of Andover, died Sunday, Feb. 15 at Academy Manor in Andover.

Mrs. Hollyday was described by her family as a stalwart member of the United Methodist Church, where she was a church school teacher for more than 20 years and a member of the choir, women's club and prayer group. She was the widow of Joseph S. Hollyday.

Members of her family include her son, Joseph Hollyday and his wife Catherine Price-Hollyday of Bedford; daughter, Nancy and her husband James Atkinson of Oakmont, Pa.; and three grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan

Robert B. Reilly

Co-owner of F.P. Reilly & Sons

Robert B. Reilly, 44, of Andover, died Friday, Feb. 13. Born in Lawrence, Mr. Reilly co-owned F.P. Reilly & Sons in Andover and was a member of St. Augustine Church and the Lawrence Elks Lodge.

Members of his family include his wife, Marilyn "Cookie" (Messina) Reilly; four children, Sarah, Laura, Michael and Roberta, all of Andover; mother, Margaret (Wallace) Reilly of Andover; brothers, Peter and Michael Reilly, both of Andover; and nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 18 from 3 to 8 p.m. at Burke Funeral Home, 390 N. Main St., Andover.

A funeral Mass will be said today, Thursday, Feb. 19 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Augustine Church, 43 Essex St., Andover.

Burial will be in West Parish Garden Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Caritas Holy Family Hospital Foundation, 70 East St., Methuen, MA 01844.

Ave., Chicago, IL 60601.

Arrangements were by Dewhirst & Conte Funeral Home, 28 Florence St., Andover. Burial was in Ridge-wood Cemetery, North Andover.

John J. Wholey

Longtime local doctor headed the Board of Health in the 1960s

John James Wholey, 92, of New Orleans, La., died Wednesday, Feb. 11.

He practiced medicine in Andover from 1951 to 1978 and was on the medical staff at the former Bon Secours Hospital in Methuen, now Caritas Holy Family Hospital, and Lawrence General Hospital in Lawrence.

He headed the Andover Board of Health in the 1960s and the Merrimack College Infirmary in the 1970s.

Dr. Wholey treated the Sacred Heart School brothers in Shawsheen Village and the Augustinian Fathers at Merrimack College for many years.

After retiring, he moved to Anna Maria Island, Fla., and later to New Orleans.

Born in Lawrence, Dr. Wholey attended Dartmouth College and he graduated with an MD degree from the former Middlesex College, now Brandeis University, in 1942.

In addition, he spent several years as a piano player and arranger for various big bands during the Depression. His work took him to hotels in New York City, Bermuda and Jamaica. He also played on cruise ships to the Caribbean, Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires.

He was commissioned as a captain in the US Army and served in the National Guard, retiring as a full colonel.

He was the widower of

Katherine Young Wholey.

Members of his family include daughters, Jane Deering Wholey of New Orleans and Ann Wholey-Bisesi of Philadelphia, Pa.; daughter-in-law, Maureen Wholey of Andover; sister, Virginia Jackson of Andover; and four grandchildren.

He was also the father of the late Thomas Uniac Wholey.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Musicians' Assistance Program, 817 Vince St., Suite 219, Hollywood, CA 90038.

A memorial service will be held in Andover at a later date.

Donald R. Wheelock

Longtime resident was Phillips Academy painter

Donald R. Wheelock, 85, of Andover, died Friday, Feb. 13 at Caritas Holy Family Hospital in Methuen.

He was a painter at Phillips Academy in Andover.

Born in Canada, Mr. Wheelock served in the Army during World War II and lived in Calais, Maine, before moving to Andover 50 years ago.

Members of his family include his wife, Vasiliki R.

DEATHS

Margaret R. Ashworth, 78
James L. Batts Jr., 89
Harold E. DeBolt, 81
James B. Evans Jr., 78
Marie A. Gaidis, 82
Nora A. Hollyday, 84
Robert B. Reilly, 44
Flora R. Valentine, 85
Donald R. Wheelock, 85
John J. Wholey, 92

DEATHS ELSEWHERE

BATTS - James L. Batts Jr., 89, of Lawrence, died Friday, Feb. 13 at Mary Immaculate Nursing/Restorative Center. Members of his family include his son and daughter-in-law, James L. and Jane Batts of Andover.

GAIDIS - Marie A. (McCreary) Gaidis, 82, of Salem, N.H., died Thursday, Feb. 12 at Salem Haven Nursing Home. She was a local artist and member of the Andover Art Association.

Warren DeBolt of Richmond, Va.; and sister, Ethel Hines of Fredericktown, Ohio.

Memorial donations can be sent to the Abbey of St. Walburga, 1109 N. US Highway 287, Virginia Dale, CO 80506.

Arrangements were by Howe Mortuary.

Union Church, Forest St., Methuen, MA 01844.

Arrangements are by the Charles F. Dewhirst Funeral Home, 80 Broadway, Methuen.

Flora R. Valentine

Floral shop owner; calling hours are today

Flora R. (Raidy) Valentine, 85, of Andover, died Monday, Feb. 16 at home.

She was one of the original owners of Valentine Flowers in Andover along with her late husband. She was also a licensed realtor and co-owner of Valentine Real Estate.

Born in Lawrence, Mrs. Valentine was a member of St. Augustine Church.

She was the widow of Ronald M. Valentine.

Members of her family include sons, William T. Valentine and his wife Jane of Lawrence, and Ronald D. Valentine of Union, Maine; daughter, Jane Hermosa and her husband Luis of Andover; sister, Eleanor Shannon of Andover; six grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Calling hours are today, Thursday, Feb. 19 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Burke Funeral Home, 390 N. Main St., Andover.

Funeral services will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made to Merrimack Valley Hospice, 360 Merrimack St., Lawrence, MA 01843; or the Alzheimer's Association Massachusetts Chapter, 36 Cameron Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140.

Margaret R. Ashworth

Punchard 1944 grad

Margaret R. "Peggy" Ashworth, 78, a longtime resident of Andover and Methuen, died Thursday, Feb. 12 at Craven Regional Medical Center in New Bern, N.C.

She was a 1944 graduate of Punchard High School in Andover. Before her retirement, she had worked in the offices of Lawrence Maid Footwear, Flavor Fresh Co. and APW, all of Lawrence. She was an active member of Forest Street Union Church in Methuen, where she had served as a Sunday school teacher and superintendent of the Sunday school. She was a founder and past president of the Friendship Circle of the church.

She was also an active member of the Methuen Senior Center.

Members of her family include her son, Douglas Ashworth of Windham, N.H.; daughter, Susan and her husband Thomas of New Bern; five grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Services and burial will be private. There will be a memorial service at a later date. There are no calling hours.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Forest Street

Harold E. DeBolt

Worked at aerospace firm

Harold E. DeBolt, 81, of Boulder, Colo. and formerly of Andover, died Wednesday, Feb. 11, in Boulder of complications from brain surgery.

He earned a bachelor's, a master's and doctoral degrees at Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mr. DeBolt worked at AVCO Missile & Space Systems in both the Wilmington and Lowell offices.

He was the widower of Dolores (McCreary) DeBolt.

Members of his family include children, Mary Ann Hand and her husband Greg, Robert DeBolt and Patricia DeBolt, all of Boulder. Thomas DeBolt and his wife Dorothy of San Diego, Calif., Rita DeBolt of Los Angeles, Calif., and Edith Tatulis and her husband Bill of Candia, N.H.; a brother,

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

100 Years Ago - 1904

The Ladies Aid Society of the Congregational Church, Ballardvale, enjoyed an oyster supper and entertainment in the vestry last Friday evening. The main feature of the entertainment was a number of selections by William Shaw's graphophone.

Parents' Day was observed in the Stowe School on Wednesday and in the John Dove School on Thursday, when parents and friends of scholars took this opportunity to inspect pupils' work, and to get better acquainted with the teachers.

The usual Good Government rally will be held in the town hall Sunday night, Feb. 28.

Judge Poor will preside and the list of speakers, although not complete, will include Rev. A. T. Belknap and Principal Stearns.

The fire department was called to the home of Mrs. Esther Byers, corner of School and Central streets, to extinguish a fierce fire that was in progress in a chimney.

The Andover Club's discussion on town affairs, one of the major pre-town meeting events, will be held on two evening, the first to be devoted to school improvements with a description of central heating, and the second a general discussion of all questions of town interest.

Mr. and Mrs. C.T. Ripley

gave a dinner party to the Nemo Club at the Phillips Inn, Tuesday evening. Whist was played, the prizes being taken by Mrs. J. Newton Cole, and Mr. Goff.

The 22nd of this month is the opening day of the season for the showing of the Pope Mfg. Co. bicycles. H. F. Chase, the local agent, will have samples in his store.

The new sled recently purchased for the use of the Hose Company in Ballardvale has greatly increased the efficiency of our fire department.

75 Years Ago - 1929

Men possessed of unlimited pep and go, a large chorus, a variety of specialties, and a

crowded house made the Knights of Columbus minstrel show staged Tuesday night under the joint direction of John P. Alexander and Robert P. Winters, the most successful they have ever given.

Two persons were seriously injured when their auto and an electric car collided on Main Street on Saturday. Fred Reed of Argilla Road is on the danger list at Lawrence General Hospital. Miss Viola Cashman, who was taken home, was sent to the hospital a few days later for x-rays. Miss Luvia Austin of Lexington, also a passenger in the car, was shaken up.

The annual police ball will be held tonight in the Town Hall. The committee is: John Deyermund, chairman; Robert Dobbie, Winthrop K. White and Henry Todd.

George K. Bruce has received word from Washington of his appointment as postmaster at Ballardvale. He has been acting postmaster since the resignation of Mr. Haynes last April.

-Compiled by Townsman intern Richa Goyal

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MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by John Ventrone, John W. Ventrone and Janice Ventrone New Century Mortgage Corporation, dated December 19, 2000, and recorded with the Essex County, N.D. Registry of Deeds at Book 8037, Page 321 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, and in which the mortgaged premises consist of certain real estate located in Andover, known as and numbered 44 Fairwood Drive, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 10:00 a.m. on the 5th day of March, 2004, at said mortgaged premises in Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts, and throughout the premises described in said mortgage.

The land in Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts, being shown as Lot #33 on Sheet #1 of a plan entitled "Subdivision Plan of Fairwood Forest, Andover, Massachusetts" owned by R. R. Fair, Sagamore Drive, Salem, Mass., 01970, Raymond C. Pressey, Inc., C.E. recorded with Essex North District Registry of Deeds as Plan No. 5808, said lot being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

NORTH-WESTLY by the Southern line of the Circular portion of Fairwood Drive 66.11 feet
EAST-WESTLY by lot #34, 290.81 feet
SOUTHERLY by land of New England Power Company 230.00 feet
SOUTHWESTERLY by land now or formerly owned by Thomas A. Thompson 73.69 feet and
NORTH-WESTERLY by lot #32 on said plan 238.29 feet

Containing 48,010 sq. ft. as shown on said plan.

For full see Book 2086, Page 292

Said sale shall be subject to all restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax titles, liens or claims in the nature of liens existing encumbrances of record, Federal, State and Municipal taxes or tax liens, municipal betterments and easements, if any, created prior to the mortgage being foreclosed upon. Said premises shall also be sold subject to all leases and tenancies having priority over said mortgage, to tenancies or occupations by persons on the premises now and at the time of said auction, which tenancies or occupants are subject to said mortgage, to rights or claims in personal property installed by tenants or former tenants now located on the premises, and also to all laws and ordinances, including but not limited to, all building and zoning laws and ordinances.

TERMS OF SALE

Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00) shall be paid in certified or Bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid by certified or Bank cashier's check at the offices of Steven A. Ross, Esq., Gilmartin, Magence, Gamie & Ross, LLP, 376 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. The successful bidder of the sale of the premises shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the Auction Sale.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of sale.

The postal address of the mortgaged premises is known to me as 44 Fairwood Drive, Andover, MA 01840.

Mortgagee: Eastern Savings Bank, 15b 1155, McGovern Road, Suite 200, Hunt Valley, MD 21031.

Mortgagee's Attorney: Steven A. Ross, Esq., Gilmartin, Magence, Gamie, & Ross, LLP, 376 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116, 617-375-9555.

Dated January 28, 2004
February 5, 12 & 19, 2004

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate And Family Court Department Essex Division Docket No.

00P3036AD1
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATOR'S ACCOUNT

To all persons interested in the estate of RICHARD T. COLEMAN late of Andover, Essex County

You are hereby notified pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 72 that the FIRST AND FINAL account of TIMOTHY D. SULLIVAN as ADMINISTRATOR (the fiduciary) of said estate has been presented to said Court for allowance.

If you desire to preserve your right to file an objection to said account, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at Salem on or before the eighth day of March, 2004, the re-

turn day of this citation. You may upon written request by registered or certified mail to the fiduciary, or to the attorney for the fiduciary, obtain without cost a copy of said account. If you desire to object to any item of said account, you must in addition to filing a written appearance as aforesaid, file within thirty days after said return day or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order a written statement of each such item together with the grounds for each objection thereto, a copy to be served upon the fiduciary pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 5.

Witness, JOHN C. STEVENS, III, Esquire, First Justice of said Court at Essex this fourth day of February, 2004.
Pamela Casey O'Brien
Register of Probate
February 19, 2004

Townspeople

TOWN TALK

'X-Treme' shows of strength

A world record for women's strength was set at the recent X-Treme Strongman Showdown, organized by Andover resident and promoter Art McDermott. McDermott said Boxford resident and strength athlete Kara Mann carried two 200-pound cylinders — one in each hand — a distance of 200 feet. The event is called the "farmer's walk."

"You could make the argument that it was the best farmer's walk ever by a woman," said McDermott.

For men, the most impressive display of strength was by frequent American strength-competition winner Phil Pfister, who lifted a 420-pound stone 44 inches to place it atop a box.

— Ben Hellman

On track for Patriots Day

It's been a tough winter for marathon training, but local runners are indeed gearing up for the upcoming Boston Marathon.

Andover native Jennifer Prudden is among them. She's running her second Boston Marathon. Last year, she ran as a "bandit," which means she ran without a number. She ran the 26-mile course in under four hours.

This year, the 1996 Andover High graduate is currently in training and will be running with the Dana-Farber Cancer Research Team.

Now a third-grade teacher at Andover's South Elementary School and a Brookline resident, she is running for a college friend. That friend, Nicole Lafitte of Littleton, N.H., died of cancer in 2002. The women attended Colby-Sawyer College together.

"She was very influential in getting me into running," Prudden wrote in an e-mail to the *Townsmen*.

To be part of her team, Prudden is required to raise \$2,500 for the race being held Patriots Day, Monday, April 19. Donations may be made through www.dfmaraathon.kintera.org and clicking on the "support a runner" link.

— Judy Wakefield

Drama in General

A free performance of Andover High School's drama competition entry, John Guare's *The General of Hot Desire*, can be seen on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Collins Center.

The play is Andover High's submission to the annual Massachusetts High School Drama Festival and is the first

Continued on page 14



Diane Pitochelli (left) and Margaret Pustell at the Andover Women's Drum Circle at Old Town Hall on Thursday, Feb. 5.

Circle of Rhythm

Andover women's drum circle: musical outlet, bonding arena

By Andrea Gregory

IT STARTS WITH THE PALM OF ONE woman's hand slapping the surface of a drum. Then there is another slap and another — louder — and the drumming is joined by other sounds. Tambourines jingle, sticks crack together, beaded rattles shake and several more women beat drums. The sounds become one. Some women close their eyes. Others feel an urge to get out of their chairs and dance.

This is a drumming circle, an hour of freedom, powerful noise, release and relaxation that takes place the second Thursday of every month at Old Town Hall, 20 Main St.

Andover women's drum circle has been a musical outlet and bonding arena for just over a year, according to those involved. Jane Gossard began the monthly drum sessions through the Andover Senior Center. She came to the senior center to host a storytelling event. When she was asked if she would be interested in leading a monthly drumming session, she says there was no hesitation.

"I will show up with my drums and whoever comes I will drum with them," says Gossard. The group is open to women of all ages.

Gossard has never had to worry about drumming alone, since several local women always join her sessions.

The women gather on the top floor of Old Town Hall, also known as the Town House. The afternoon sun illuminates the empty auditorium through large windows. About a dozen folding chairs are dragged into the center of the room. Gossard says the room creates glorious acoustics and offers a lot of space for dancing and drumming.

As the women arrive, they sit in the chairs. They say even first-timers are greeted with friendly smiles, and there is a sense of community among those who join the circle.

"It's a wonderful way to spend an afternoon," says Nancy Redding, one of the drummers.

The sessions begin when Gossard presses the play button on a tape recorder. Participants abandon the circle of chairs to get up and dance. Everyone dances.

Some of the women sway from side to side, others twirl in circles and leap around the room. Some smile at each other, others close their eyes and concentrate on having their bodies reflect the drum beats.

This warm-up exercise entices women to create their own beats. The women regroup in the drum circle. There is a ring of folding chairs and a variety of different drums and noise makers laid out on a blanket in the center. One by one, the women introduce



Gloria Davis

themselves and say what they are "drumming for" today. A few of the women will drum for loved ones or as a means of addressing personal issues. Some women say they are just drumming to drum.

And then it begins. Everyone grabs an instrument, from knee-high drums to a bottle of aspirin. It is time to make some noise.

The women of the circle bang passionately against the drums. They shake vigorously anything that rattles or they knock together wooden sticks. Most of the women switch instruments during the afternoon for a chance to play them all at some point. Other women don't skip a beat and play whatever they picked up from the start the whole way through.

"Drumming means doing anything you feel like doing on the drum. It's just making a tone and seeing what happens," says Gossard. "We all have some sense of rhythm. They come into rhythm together. That has always happened."

Many of the women close their eyes while they play.

"It's kind of a meditation experience," says Susan Lenoe, another drum-circle member. "I think the great thing about it is, it's a state of inner focus."

While the women make music, Andrea Bachner, a regular participant, is often compelled to dance around her fellow drummers. She sways with her eyes closed, raises her hands to the ceiling and aligns her movements in perfect harmony with the music.

"You end up realizing, 'Why wasn't I dancing all along?'" says Bachner. "Music is really important. It's like the essence of yourself. It takes you out of time."

About an hour passes and the beats begin to dwindle. No one says stop. The ending is very smooth and soft. "And then we sit in silence," says Gossard.

After an hour of drums, the silence raises a powerful sound of its own. Then the women stand. Holding hands in the circle they sing. There are no words just long notes thrown out and mimicked by the voices of the other women. It's hard to tell which sounds are being produced by which women. The sessions close with a prayer-like chant about harmony, the universe and nature.

"When you're finished drumming, you feel great," says Gossard.

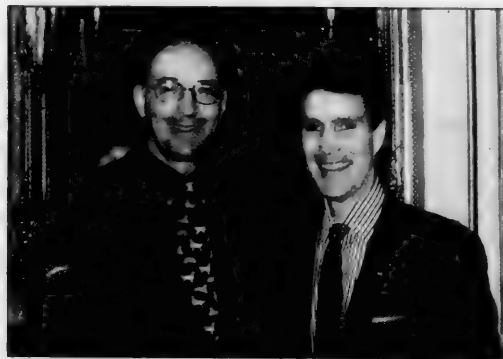
About a dozen other women agreed with her on their way out of last week's session.



"When you're finished drumming, you feel great."

JANE GOSSARD (ABOVE), AS WOMEN DANCE AROUND THE DRUM CIRCLE

Photos by Tim Jean



Thomas Hoerner of Andover (left) with Sen. Bill Frist of Tennessee, host of the Mass. General residents' reunion.

Doctors in the house — and Capitol

By Judy Wakefield

DISCUSSIONS AT 25TH CLASS REUNIONS CAN FOCUS ON weight gain, baldness and divorces, but a local orthopedist who recently got together with members of his residency class discussed none of the above.

Instead, those attending the 25th reunion for Massachusetts General Hospital residents from the class of 1978 talked about politics, and how doctors can help out overseas. As a result, an Andover doctor and his son will visit Vietnam this spring to offer medical help there.

"No one was much heavier, and there was just one divorce. What was remarkable was how stable and balanced they are," said Thomas Hoerner of Andover, who attended the reunion in Washington, D.C. earlier this month, and will travel to Vietnam. Hoerner works at Essex Orthopedics on Haverhill Street.

Also remarkable was the reunion host's political ties. The host was Sen. Bill Frist of Tennessee, Senate Majority Leader.

A surgeon who swapped his scalpel for a gavel, Frist talked about how his medical/scientific training gives him a "perspective not available to other members of the Senate," Hoerner said. Frist was formerly a cardiothoracic surgeon at Vanderbilt University and a member of Hoerner's original group of 12 residents at MGH.

"Dr. Frist gave us a private tour of the Capitol, allowing us to view many areas not open to the general public," said Hoerner, 51. "In the Senate chambers we viewed Daniel Webster's desk as well as many others."

The reunion dinner was held in the Mansfield Dining Room at the Capitol and that's when the event turned ordinary. Attendees shared brief biographies of their lives since residency. Hoerner's called his "uncomplicated."

"I finished residency, moved to Andover, and have worked in the same practice for 20 years — a milestone recognized last month," said this married father of four kids ages 24, 21, 18 and 13.

The importance of reaching out to sick people all over the world received lots of attention at this reunion. Frist has helped out in Kenya and the Sudan when the Senate was not in session, while other doctors have helped out in Ecuador and also in Kenya.

Hoerner will be visiting Vietnam this June with his 18-year-old son. He leaves June 11 to take part in a program organized by Health Volunteers Overseas and was clearly inspired by his fellow class members who have already given something back to make the world a better place.

"The program's goal is to leave a legacy; to teach and make sure people are better served," he explained. "And, I think it will be a good experience for my son to see the importance of giving back."

WEDDINGS

Matthews-Pecoraro

Jennifer Pecoraro and Tyler Matthews were married July 26, 2003 at St. Augustine Church with Father Alfred Ellis officiating. Following the wedding, a reception was held at the Granite Rose in Hampstead, N.H.

The bride is the daughter of Robert Pecoraro of Cincinnati, Ohio and Bonnie Pecoraro of Andover.

She received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She is a sales operations manager at Genzyme Cambridge.

The groom is the son of Bruce and Beth Matthews of Atkinson, N.H. He is pursuing a bachelor degree at the University of Southern New Hampshire and is employed as a technical adviser.

The couple honeymooned in Aruba, and live in Hudson, N.H.



Jennifer and Tyler Matthews

McCarthy-Walsh

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Walsh of Andover announce the marriage of their daughter, Katie Lynne Walsh of Watertown, to Michael Gordon McCarthy of Maynard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene McCarthy of Framingham. The couple were married Sept. 6, 2003 at Christ Church in Kennebunk, Maine with Rev. Stephen Hastings and Father Francis O'Brien officiating. A reception was held at the Colony Hotel, Kennebunkport, Maine.

The bride, a graduate of Andover High School and St. Michael's College, is employed at Biogen Idec as a manager in clinical research.

The groom, a graduate of St. Paul's School and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is self-employed.

After a honeymoon on Nantucket and St. John, US Virgin Islands, the couple live in Waltham.



Katie and Michael McCarthy

Fox-Reilly

Dr. and Mrs. James T. Reilly announce the marriage of their daughter, Katherine Elizabeth Reilly, to Craig Douglas Fox, son of Alana S. Fox of Edison, N.J. The couple were married Aug. 2, 2003 at the Chapel at West Parish with a reception following at Andover Town House (Old Town Hall).

Mr. Fox graduated in 1993 from J.P. Stevens High School in Edison and from Boston University in 1997 with a degree in philosophy. He received a master's degree in philosophy from Tufts University in 1999 and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in philosophy at the University of Illinois, Chicago.

The bride graduated from Andover High School in 1995, and from Boston University with a degree in art history in 1990. She has just completed a master's degree from the University of Chicago in art history and has returned to a job as editor in the publications department of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she has been employed since 1999.



Katherine and Craig Fox

Crisfield-Worcester

Charles and Barbara Worcester, of Andover, announce the marriage of their daughter, Julia Diane Worcester, to James Robert Crisfield Jr. of Pleasantville, N.Y., son of James and Elizabeth Crisfield of St. Simon's Island, Georgia. The couple were married Nov. 15, 2003 at the Chapel of Hope, Newport, R.I. with Father Richard Vidrine officiating.

The bride graduated from Princeton University with a bachelor's degree and received a JD degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. She is currently a lieutenant in the US Navy Judge Advocate General Corps.

The groom received a bachelor's degree from SUNY Geneseo, MBA and JD degrees from Pace University Business and Law Schools, and an LLM degree from Georgetown Law School. He is a lieutenant commander in the US Navy Judge Advocate General Corps.

After a honeymoon in Killington, Vt., the couple live in Arlington, Va.



Julia and James Crisfield Jr.

FOR SENIORS

By Pat Becker

Andover Senior Center

Here are some of the activities coming up at the Andover Senior Center.

Art Appreciation: Well-known lecturer Gerry Weisenberg will offer a four-part slide/lecture art series beginning Thursday, March 11 at 2 p.m. The course will cover work by Rembrandt, Vermeer and Velasquez as well as women artists of the High Renaissance period. Pre-registration is necessary and cost of the course is \$20.

Peking Acrobats: You won't want to miss out on our upcoming trip to the Lowell Memorial Auditorium to see the world-renowned Peking Acrobats in their only local appearance. This group leaves its audiences spellbound by their graceful presentations of gymnastics, jugglers and cyclists. The trip will be held Friday, March 12. We will leave the center at 7 p.m.; the \$48 cost includes center floor seating and bus transportation from the center.

Movie Matinee: Join us Monday, Feb. 23 at 1 p.m. when we will show the recent release, *Uptown Girls*. This is a charming comedy about a spoiled young woman who becomes a nanny for an uptight 8-year-old girl.

Fix-It Shop: The fix-it shop volunteers will be back at the center Monday, Feb. 23 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The men will be happy to take a look at any small household item or appliance in need of repair.

Parkinson's Support Group: The next monthly meeting will take place Thursday, March 11 at 1:30 p.m. This will be an open group for any interested caregivers and patients. For further information, contact Kristine Arakelian at the senior center.

Craft Help Wanted: The senior center craft will be meeting on Thursday mornings from 9 to 11:30 to get ready for the spring fair. If you enjoy crafts and could lend us a hand, come on down; we could use your help.

Friday Forum: "Nursing Home Crisis: Yesterday, Today

and Tomorrow," sponsored by CORE (the Coalition of Organizations to Reform Elder Care) will take place at the center on Friday, March 12 at 9:30 a.m. Discussion will include nursing home initiatives, impact of the 2004-05 state budget, a consumer's view, as well as estate recovery and income and asset eligibility. A continental breakfast will be served, and advance reservations would be appreciated. Call the center at 978-623-8321 if you would like to attend.

Income Tax Assistance: Volunteers will be available at the center Thursday and Friday mornings during tax season by appointment. To schedule an appointment to meet with one of the volunteers, call the center at 978-623-8321.

Men's Breakfast: The next men's breakfast will take place tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 20 at 8:30 a.m. Speaker will be Bruce Bateman, who will present a slide/lecture show entitled "Winged Memories." The program will feature both civilian and military aviation memorabilia along with stories about Bateman's flying experiences and airports of yesterday. Cost is \$3 and advance reservations are necessary.

TOWN TALK

AHS DRAMA GUILD

Continued from page 13

play in recent memory to be directed by a student.

Andover High junior Kara McCall is directing her peers in the play, which will be judged against other high school offerings on Saturday, Feb. 28 at 10 a.m., at Sharon High School, 181 Pond St., Sharon.

The play is about a group of students studying Shakespearean sonnet 154, which refers to "the general of hot desire." The students surmise the poem has Biblical references and act out scenes from the Bible, developing their ideas. Every actor plays a student and also a Biblical figure as the students act out a play within the play.

— Ben Hellman

FEBRUARY FIRST BIRTHDAY PHOTOS & WRITE-UPS ARE DUE FRIDAY, FEB. 20 AT 5 P.M.

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Arts & Entertainment

EVENTS CALENDAR

Thursday, February 19

Concert, singer/songwriter Thea Hopkins, Borders Bookstore in Methuen, 7 p.m., free, 90 Pleasant St., The Loop Unit 110, Methuen, 978-689-1999.

Seminar, African-American and Afro-Hispanic Intersections, Merrimack College - Office of Cultural Awareness, 6 p.m., free; Graeme Griffith 978-537-5391.

Friday, February 20

Concert, "the Music of Eternity," retreat, Franciscan Center, 459 River Road, Andover; Jerri Lou Bulfo, 978-851-3391.

Concert, Boston singer-songwriter, Flynn, Crescent Dragon Gallery & Cafe, 8 p.m., \$10, 59 Washington St., Haverhill; 978-372-7679, www.crescentdragon.com.

Comedy, Comedians (Paul Nardizzi, Bob Niles, MYO Kaplan), Dick Doherty's Comedy Escape at the China Blossom, 9 p.m., \$12, 946 Osgood St., North Andover, 800-401-2221.

Saturday, February 21

Concert, Tony Bird presents the sights, sounds and senses of Africa, sponsored by New Moon Coffee House, 8 p.m., \$15 on sale at the door, Universalist Unitarian Church, Jct. of Route 110 and Route 125, Haverhill; 978-373-9259.

Monte Carlo Night, St. Monica School, an evening of games, raffles and more, 7 p.m., \$100 donation, 1 Mill St., call for directions; Colleen Carney 978-807-5359.

Comedy, see entry under Friday, Feb. 13.

Sunday, February 22

Rehearsals, Tewksbury Interfaith Choir, rehearsal for annual Spring Concert, 7:30 p.m., Tewksbury Congregational Church, Tewks-

bury Center; Arlene Wright 978-851-2809.

Monday, February 23

No events scheduled

Tuesday, February 24

Meeting, Merrimack Valley People for Peace, 7:30 p.m., free, North Parish Church, North Andover; www.merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org.

New Insights on the Lives of Giant Bluefin Tuna, with Molly Lutcuage, program director on bluefin tuna research and research professor in the UNH Department of Zoology, part of Memorial Hall Library's Fish On! series, 7 p.m., with fly-tying demonstration 6-7 p.m., free, Memorial Hall Library, Elm Square; Norma Gammon 978-623-8401 Ext. 49.

Wednesday, February 25

Public Hearing, Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, a series of statewide hearings, 5-6:30 p.m., free, Armand Mercier Center, 21 Center St., Lowell; 617-626-6520 mcsww@state.ma.us.

Presentation, Parent to Parent program, college options for students on IEPs, 7-9:30 p.m., free, West Middle School Auditorium; Barbara Jezak 978-474-0387.

Performance, *The General of Hot Desire*, presented by AHS Drama Guild, 7 p.m., free, Collins Center at Andover High School, Shaw-sheen Road; Kara McCall 978-689-2402, AHSdGPresident@yahoo.com, www.ahsdramaguild.cjb.net.

Thursday, February 26

No events scheduled

Friday, February 27

Concert, Phillips Academy, classical music performances by Symphony and Chamber orchestras, 7:30 p.m., free, Cochran Theatre (on the campus), Main Street; 978-

Continued on page 16

Musical roots

Jazz player-turned-teacher plays Palmers Saturday

By Ben Hellman

JAZZ PLAYERS CALL IT IMPROVISING. But they just have to play music, not teach it. And when Pete Robbins, a jazz player was thrown in front of a group of elementary students for the first time in September, he quickly learned the difficulties with winging it in front of a young audience.

Robbins tried like mad to remember how his Andover teachers had taught him. Then, he looked down at his students' young faces and tried to explain the finer points of rhythm - of *ti-ti-ta*. Shortly thereafter, looking for advice, Robbins turned the master, his West Elementary School music teacher, Josie Walker. Things are going better in the classroom now, he said.

Robbins will improvise in more comfortable surroundings with his band Centric on Saturday night at Palmers Restaurant & Tavern at 18 Elm St. from 6 to 8.

They follow the Palmers show with an 11 p.m. show at Zeitgeist Gallery in Inman Square, Cambridge.

Robbins' day gig is in the Brooklyn, N.Y. public schools. He started teaching in September after a year of substitute teaching and after getting his certification course credits over the Internet.

But his Internet courses offered him little practical experience, he said.

That's why, when it was time to instruct, he turned to Walker, his first music teacher. He hadn't spoken to her in 15 years, but he knew he needed help. "I have your job and don't know what to do," Robbins said he told her.

Walker gave him an hour of her time, and Robbins took pages of notes.

He believes his teaching improved.

Robbins considers Andover teachers to be the inspiration for his life choices. Robbins started playing clarinet in elementary school and eventually played in a middle school jazz band, where he worked with retired music teacher Allan Minkinen. Minkinen taught Robbins to improvise by playing piano at West Middle School, and having Robbins chime in and play along. "Mr. Minkinen is where it all started for me," said Robbins.

Robbins now plays saxophone in his four-member band. His name leads the group, which is billed as Pete Robbins and Centric. He described the group's style as rock-influenced, the type of jazz less likely to be used as background music. "It's clearly jazz with the sax, bass, piano combination," he said.

Robbins would like to sign a deal with a record label. Centric is recording its second album in May, which he hopes could lead to such a deal. For now he says he does find teaching rewarding.

"I laugh at myself because I spend more time doing that than playing jazz," said Robbins.



Pete Robbins

Jazz orchestra leader recalls her early musical foundation at AHS

By Judy Wakefield

WHILE JAZZ ORCHESTRA LEADER Anita Brown's music is hot - thanks to six Grammy Award ballot spots this year - she still talks warmly about her fond memories of Andover. The 1977 Andover High School graduate said she established her musical roots well before she led the Anita Brown Jazz Orchestra to cut its recent Grammy-nominated compact disc, *27 East*.

Brown grew up in Andover during the late 1970s, when the retired, but still involved J. Everett Collins showed up faithfully each school day to lead rehearsals for Andover High School's select Madrigal Singers and a capella choir.

"He asked us to call him Uncle John, never Mr. Collins. He was always in a suit and strolled in for rehearsals cracking jokes," Brown recalled with a laugh.

"I remember he asked me to sing in *The Messiah* at South Church," she said. "It was my senior year and I will never forget that. Andover had a good music program back then."

Brown is the daughter of tenor saxophonist Ted Brown and pianist Phyllis Ter-



Anita Brown, a member of the Andover High class of '77, is the shining light in front of a 17-member jazz orchestra. Its first CD, *27 East*, came out last August. The road in the title leads to Montauk on Long Island.

plucked the lone music scholarship. Now, she can only sigh with disappointment when told of music program cutbacks.

"Music has always been on the bottom of the totem pole. Visual arts and athletics were always on top," said Brown, who is now 44 and has been on many sides of the music scene. She earned a bachelor's degree in music from the University of New Hampshire and a master's in music education from Herbert H. Lehman College in New York.

Her early career took her from Dover, N.H. to Glastonbury, Conn., to Nyack N.Y., where she now lives. She taught choral singing and other music courses at both public and private schools.

In 1995, she hit her career crossroads and decided to leave teaching for the true love of her life - composing music and leading a jazz band.

"I love leading the band. It's my form of expression, the most exciting thing in my life," said Brown. "The orchestra is my instrument, my voice."

Continued on page 17

Sunday concert at Memorial Hall Library

"Songs of Love and Romance" will be presented in concert this Sunday, Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library. The concert features Tom Weber, baritone, and Deirdre Shaw, soprano.

According to organizers, Weber has pleased audiences and critics alike, displaying versatility and flexibility in a variety of roles and settings. "He has appeared locally with the Lowell Opera Company, exciting the audiences with his ringing portrayal of Tonio in that company's concert production of Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*," Weber has also made more than a dozen opera and concert appearances with Longwood Opera, New England Light Opera, and Salisbury Lyric Opera as well as Lowell Opera, singing dramatic and comic selections from opera, operetta, and Broadway.

Shaw is a Massachusetts native with a strong Verdi and Puccini repertoire, organizers said. Among her recent performances is the soprano soloist in Verdi's *Requiem* with San Bernardino Symphony.

Locally, she interpreted the roles of Nedda in *I Pagliacci* and the sultry Lola in Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* with Lowell Opera Company.

For more information, call Norma Gammon at 978-623-8401, Ext. 49.



Tom Weber, baritone

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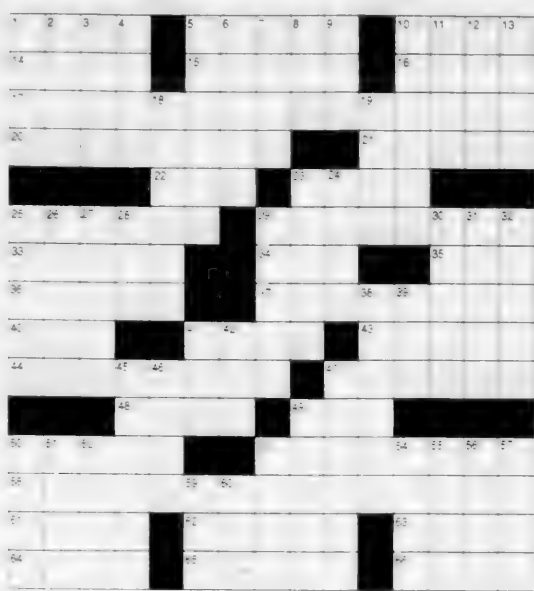
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5. Wet nurses
10. Civil rights organization
14. Double-reed instrument
15. Burdles
16. Frees from moisture
17. Rocky's buddy
20. Impassively
21. In a way, bent
22. "Partners Family" Susan
23. Protection
25. Anima disease
29. Traveling or commercial
33. Good Gosh
34. Leaf of the talipot palm
35. One indifferently out of more than two
36. Max __, Dadaist painter
37. Madder family tree
40. Indian hemp
41. Canadian flyers labor
43. Herring gun genius
44. Tackles
47. Capital of the Philippines
48. The back side of the neck
49. Language of the Dai region of Yunnan
50. The preliminary stage
53. National capital of Liberia
58. Charisma
61. Wager
62. Emanations
63. Groundless
64. Sew up the eyelids of hawks and



- falcons
65. A name given to a product or service
66. C C C

CLUES DOWN

1. Fleeces
2. Border
3. __ contendere to plead no

- contest
4. A small wooded hollow
5. Stomachs
6. Hardy
7. Dinker slang
8. The world of the dead
9. Compass point
10. In a way, loves
11. Reptile labor
12. Cause cell destruction
13. Utilized
18. Broadest
19. A female horse
23. Civil and religious leader of an Islamic state (archaic)
24. __ Ladd, actor
25. In a way, smells
26. Of agriculture
27. Canadian ski resort
28. Subconsciousnesses
29. Soul and calypso songs
30. New Zealand native
31. Declare invalid
32. Lake South Africa
38. Chennault, for one
39. Main ethnic group of China
41. Type of tide
42. After 'B'
45. Coating for wood or metal
46. Monetary unit of W. Samoa
47. Staffed
49. Louise __, American poet
50. Blats
51. __ Frank's diary
52. The scene of action
53. Hare-like rodent of the pampas of Argentina
54. About organ of hearing
55. See (Latin)
56. A small island
57. City in Iowa
59. Place for scientific research
60. Austrian river

SOLUTION ON PAGE 17

EVENTS CALENDAR

FEB. 19 THRU FEB. 29

Continued from page 15

749-4995 music@andover.edu.

Performance. Merrimack College. Songs about finding that "someone special." 7:30 p.m., \$18 advance, \$20 at the door. Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College campus, North Andover. Maureen Lanigan 978-837-5448.

Comedy. Dick Doherty's Comedy Escape. Comedians, 9:30 p.m., \$12. The China Blossom, 946 Osgood St., 800-401-2221.

Joyful Living workshop. presenting ways to deal with daily challenges and world changes with ease and calm. 7-8:30 p.m., \$15. Yoga with Robin. Healing Arts Center, 1346 Main St., Tewksbury; call 978-851-9911 to register.

Saturday, February 28

Concert. acoustic quartet, 8 p.m., \$10. Crescent Dragon Gallery, Haverhill; Bob Warren 518-692-8991

Drama Festival. St. John's Preparatory School, "The Miser" and more plays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., \$7. Alumni Hall on the school campus, 72 Spring Street, Danvers; 978-774-6727.

Lecture. Alternative Veterinary Services, alternative medical treatments for pets, 1-3 p.m., free, 9 Hodges St., North Andover; 978-683-5775

Comedy, see entry under Friday.

Feb. 27.

Sunday, February 29

Concert. piano recital by Eleanor Perrone, 2 p.m., \$5. Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College campus, North Andover; Maureen Lanigan 978-837-5448.

Ongoing

Art Exhibitions

Addison Gallery of American Art. Richard Serra Prints: A Survey, through March 29, gallery hours Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m., Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy; 978-749-4015 www.addisongallery.org.

Alpers Fine Art of Andover. gallery hours: Wednesday and Thursdays 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 2 Main St.; 978-470-0013.

Andover Historical Society. Recent Works by Andover High School Art Students, a selection of works, on display in the Reception Gallery through March, tour the Amos Blanchard House and Barn Museum for a glimpse into life in the early 19th century, Tuesday through Friday 1-4 p.m., \$5 admission, students \$3, 97 Main St.; 978-475-2236, www.andhist.org.

Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology. Objects and their Meanings: Historical Highlights of the Peabody; displays ethnographic objects from the museum's collections of North and South America and a series of photographs that illustrate the activities of the museum's key people during the last century; Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m., by appointment only, free admission, Phillips Academy campus, 175 Main St.; 978-749-4490.

Essex Art Center. Opening through Feb. 20, Beland Gallery installation by Liz Sweibel; Feb. 27 - April 9 in the Elizabeth A. Beland Gallery R. Anderson & Gary Duehr - Color Photography; in the Main Gallery: Fined & Feathered, a celebration in honor of Women's History Month; five artists explore their interest in birds and sea creatures through painting, video, installation, and mixed media; Liz Awalt, Gail Boyajian, Laurel Hughes, Tamara Krendel and Linda Price-Sneddon present images ranging from the lowly pigeon and hen, to the canary and starfish; opening reception Friday, Feb. 27, 5-7 p.m., including refreshments, poetry reading by Jenny Gravsl, and music by The Jukebox 4; Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 56 Island

Continued on page 17

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EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING

Continued from page 16

St., Lawrence: 978-685-2343

Robert Lehman Art Center at

Brooks School, Native American Art and Artifacts, from the collection of Marc Rudick, through Feb. 28; **Student Art and Photography Show**, March 2-10; **Nostalgic Journey**, American illustrations from the collection of the Delaware Art Museum; gallery hours Tuesday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 8:30 a.m.-noon, Sunday, 2:30-5 p.m., 1160 Great Pond Road, North Andover: 978-725-6232.

Arthur Griffin Center for Photographic Art, Main Gallery: 10th Juried Exhibit, through Feb. 27,

Tuesday-Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., \$5 admission, Thursday admission is free all day, 67 Shore Road, Winchester: 781-729-1158, www.griffinmuseum.org.

Brush Art Gallery, hours Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, noon-4 p.m., 256 Market St., Lowell: 978-459-7819.

Laura Coombs Hills Gallery, Newburyport Art Association, "Impressions of New England," through Feb. 25, Newburyport: Julie Airolodi 603-329-8118.

McCoy Gallery, Merrimack College: sculptural exhibition, *Spars*, by Richard Keen, through Feb. 25, hours Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., free admission; 978-837-5000.

Ext. 4205.

Whistler House Museum of Art, Wednesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-4 p.m., \$4, 243 Worthen St., Lowell: 978-837-5000, Ext. 4205.

Sakowich Campus Center, at Merrimack College, the Fireside and First floor lounges, call for hours: 978-837-5000, Ext. 4205.

McQuade Gallery, gallery hours Monday through Thursday, 7:30

a.m.-11 p.m., Friday, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; closed weekends in January: 978-837-5000, Ext. 4205.

Revolving Museum, through April 2, LocalMotive: Gallery Exhibit, indoor gallery space will be transformed into an interactive exhibit celebrating the wonders of the natural world. Audiences will be taken on a journey through a variety of

innovative artworks that explore issues like pollution control and spirituality through nature artist-driven museum, dedicated to presenting public art, exhibitions, educational programs, gallery hours Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday noon-4 p.m., 22 Shattuck St., Lowell: 978-937-2787.

J. David Broudo Gallery of Art, Acts of Seeing/Acts of Perception, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Endicott College, 476 Hale St. (Route 127) Beverly: 978-232-2250.

Montserrat College of Art Gallery, Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, noon-4 p.m., 23 Essex St., Beverly: 978-921-4242.

Senior Center artists, talented artists participate in art classes and enjoy the "drop-in group" on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, art display of oils, watercolors, pencil, pen and ink, pastels and oriental brush art is in the Music Room; Andover Senior Center, Whittier Court: 978-623-8321.

Memorial Hall Library, Artist of the Month series features Deborah Grubbs, watercolors, Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday, noon-5 p.m., 978-623-8400, www.mhl.org.

Flint Memorial Library, 147 Park St., North Reading: 978-664-4942, www.flintmemoriallibrary.org.

Churchill Gallery, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sunday, 12:30-5:30 p.m., 6 Inn St., Newburyport: 978-462-9891.

The State of the Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden, Rocky Neck Art Colony, Gloucester: 978-463-

8883.

Cape Ann Historical Museum, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 27 Pleasant St., Gloucester: 978-283-0455.

The Saltbox Gallery, cooperative of 17 artists from the North Shore, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 49 Main St., Topsfield: 978-887-3844.

Laura Coombs Hills Gallery, Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, noon-5 p.m., 60 Water St., Newburyport: 978-465-8769, www.newburyportart.org.

Mingo Gallery, Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 252 Cabot St., Beverly: 978-927-5964.

Nevins Memorial Hall, 305 Broadway, Methuen: 978-686-4080.

Arlington Center for the Arts, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., 41 Foster St., Arlington.

Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery, Beauty of Winter, through Feb. 28, The Creative Hand III, The Art of Craft, The Craft of Art, March 3-April 24; East Gallery: Jane Kaufman, Ellen Freil and Nina Fox Herlihy, Valentines of Mass Devotion, through Feb. 29; Molly Stark, Rustic Contemporary Art, March 3-28, Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, noon-4 p.m., 136 State St., Portsmouth, N.H.: 603-431-4230.

Gelb Gallery at Phillips Academy, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Sunday, noon-4 p.m.; 978-475-4419.

Bravos Arts Gallery, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., One East Main St., Georgetown: 978-352-8102.

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Eastward Ho! for AHS grad

ANITA BROWN

Continued from page 15

Her group is a 17-member jazz band named Anita Brown Jazz Orchestra. Its first CD, *27 East*, came out last August and reviews have been impressive about the seven-song compilation. The title comes from Route 27 East on Long Island, which leads to Montauk, a popular beach destination.

The group was nominated in six Grammy Award ballot spots, including Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album. They didn't win, but enjoyed the thrill of making those numerous ballots.

In addition to orchestrating and composing, Brown handles arranging, production, marketing and whatever else is necessary to pitch her CD, which is available at Andover Bookstore on Main Street.

"Being an orchestra leader doesn't pay," she said, so she still teaches music privately to help pay the bills.

Last month she led another

orchestra, Dave Seiler's Seacoast Jazz Band, at a performance at the University of New Hampshire. She's looking to tap into the music scene at colleges and said she's already booked her band for a University of Miami gig during spring 2005.

Sure, she's serious about her band, but her good sense of humor shines through on the CD.

The first song, *Wake Up!*, was inspired by a scene that most people would try hard to forget. She fell asleep in the front row of a Carnegie Hall Jazz Band performance. That prompted the director to get the audience of about 3,000 to holler "Wake up!"

"He was seeking to make a sport of this incident," she writes of the song's inspiration for her CD jacket.

And, he did make a sport of it - a good sport, who is glad to see her orchestra's first CD grabbing audiences' attention in another way.

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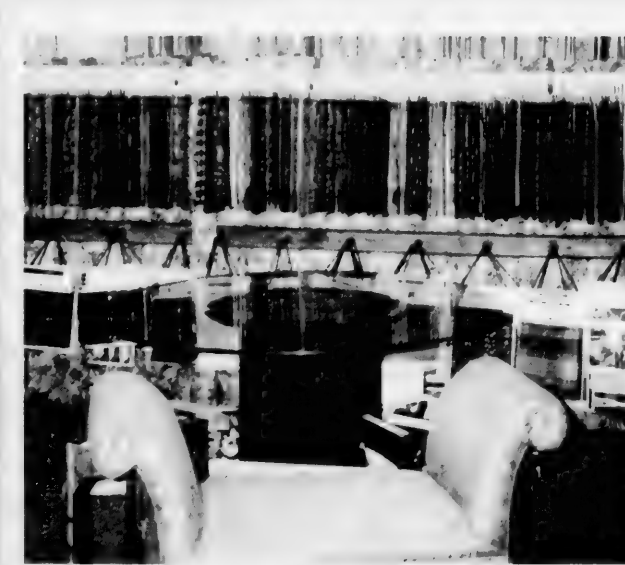
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Sports

AHS ROUNDUP

Earning their place

Girls gymnastics, boys swim are second in meets

By Rick Harrison

The Andover High girls gymnastics team placed a strong second in the North Sectional Championship Meet at Beverly High, and the boys swim/dive squad matched that performance with a solid second place in the Merrimack Valley Conference Championship Meet at Haverhill High's White Natatorium.

Libby Fortier, Katie Infantine, Meghan Harrington and Carly Verrette were instrumental in advancing the gymnasts to this weekend's All-State Meet.

Sean Geary took part in two record-breaking efforts for the swimmers while Chris Mullen, Jon Meltz, Nick Saunders and Justin Samuels were other standouts as the Golden Warriors threw a big scare into two-time reigning state champ Chelmsford.

At the State Class A Indoor Track Championship Meet, twin sisters Brittany and Caroline Pierce joined Amanda Carlson and Jenny Disk as the AHS showstoppers.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

The North Sectionals developed into strictly a two team battle, with Andover scoring 136.70 to trail only Masconomet Regional of Topsfield which claimed the title by 1 1/2 points with an outstanding 138.225.

The 1-2 finishers left everyone else in the eight-school field eating their dust, with Dual County League champion Westford Academy a distance third at 130.775.

AHS and former Merrimack Valley Conference member Masconomet qualified for this Saturday's All-State Team Meet at Shrewsbury High (4 p.m.).

"Our girls did an awesome job," said coach Julie Chapman. "We went into the meet as the No. 2 seed and came out right where we should have. We're definitely peaking at the right time."

"Masco is a great team and deserved to win. But we're not far behind and anything can happen at States."

The All-State Meet will boast an eight-team field comprised of the top two finishers from each of the three Sectionals: North, South, Central and two wild card teams.

The wild cards are the two highest scoring teams that did not finish 1-2 in the Sectionals.

"Barnstable (reigning state champ) is averaging 140 and will be very tough to beat, along with Masco," said coach Chapman. "But I wouldn't put anything past our kids. If everyone hits we could do it."

"We're hoping for a good meet, a tough score and to acquaint ourselves well. If that happens, and the girls have fun, it will be a success."

Andover won the state title in 2000 and has finished in the top four three other times in recent years.

Schedule

The All-State Individual Meet is Saturday, Feb. 28 back at Beverly High.

Andover qualified four gymnasts for the season-ender, Libby Fortier in the all-around, Meghan Harrington and Katie Infantine on bars and beam, and Sarah Conery on bars.

There are two separate sessions for the State Individuals, with those who qualified in three or fewer events going at 1 p.m. and the all-around hopefuls at 6 p.m.

"It's going to make for a long, long day since we have girls in both categories," said coach Chapman. "But that's a good thing."

All-Conference

Libby Fortier and Chelmsford's Robin Underwood are the two Merrimack Valley All-Conference all-arounders for 2004.

Fortier was undefeated this season in all-around competition, while Underwood finished second only to Fortier.

Katie Infantine earned All-Conference on balance beam and Sarah Conery on the uneven bars.

Meghan Harrington and Jenn Mason were named MVC All-Stars.

North Sectional Meet

Every team entered six gymnasts in each event with the top four scores comprising the team total.

There was no official all-around competition although Libby Fortier and Katie Infantine performed in all four events with Fortier scoring 55.75 and Infantine 54.10.

Fortier came through with a 9.05 in vault, 9.00 on beam, 9.00 on floor and 8.70 on bars.

Infantine registered an 8.85 on floor, 8.65 on beam, 8.3 on bars and 8.3 on vault.

Meghan Harrington contributed an 8.55 on floor, 8.45 on beam and 8.3 on bars.

Freshman Carly Verrette had an 8.55 on vault, 8.45 on floor and 8.1 on bars.

Sarah Conery came through with an 8.1 on vault, 7.95 on bars and 7.8 on floor.

Anti Marie Cashman scored 8.45 on beam.

and 7.1 on bars.

Competing in one event each were freshman Becky Robichaud (beam, 8.0), Capt. Andrea Krivelow (beam, 7.0), Steph Theroux (vault, 8.1), Lauren Reed (vault, 7.95) and Capt. Jenn Mason (floor, 7.3).

"We got 11 kids up in the meet and that showed depth," said Chapman. "The scoring was tough and fair. Some of the qualifying teams came here with inflated averages because the new scoring system produced some out-of-line point totals this year. This meet was a much truer indication of each team's ability."

"We had a good rotation and dominated on balance beam (34.55 score) and in floor exercise (34.85)," said coach Chapman. "But Masconomet blew everybody away on bars and vault."

"This is just the start for Masco. They don't have a senior on the team, and they have several Level 10 gymnasts with two more coming in next year."

Following Masco, Andover and Westford in the team standings were North Andover (4th, 130.00), Beverly (5th, 129.675), Peabody (6th, 129.55), Bishop Fenwick (7th, 129.525) and Central Catholic (8th, 129.15).

BOYS SWIM & DIVE

Super-talent Sean Geary was a double winner in the 200- and 500-yard freestyle races. Chris Mullen placed first in the 100 free, and the pair joined Jonathan Meltz and Nick Saunders on a record-shattering 400 free relay as Andover piled up 388 points in the Merrimack Valley Conference Championship Meet.

The point total was the most ever for a Golden Warriors' team at this meet, but fell just shy of the 403 compiled by first-place Chelmsford.

"It was an exceptional performance on our part," said coach Mark Taffe. "We had almost 100 percent best times, several sectional cuts and a bunch of swimmers that moved way up from their seed times."

Schedule

The Golden Warriors will be well-represented at the annual North Sectional Championship Meet Saturday at Haverhill High.

The season-ender two-day All-State Meet is Feb. 27 at Northeastern University (diving) and Feb. 28 at the new state-of-the-art pool at M.I.T. in Cambridge (swim events).

MVC Championship Meet

Capt. Sean Geary touched first in the 200 free, with his 1:46.17 time eclipsing the old MVC record of 1:47.60.

The two-time reigning state 500 champ finished that race in 4:42.86, less than a half-second off the meet mark of 4:42.50 held by Chelmsford's Skip Bryan.

Geary also anchored the victorious 400 free A relay whose 3:21.95 beat the existing MVC record of 3:22.34 set 13 years ago (1991). It also edged runner-up Chelmsford A which touched in 3:22.96.

Other members of that foursome were Chris Mullen, Jon Meltz and Nick Saunders.

Mullen gave the locals their fourth win with a 51.44 clocking in the 100 free that topped Chelmsford runner-up Matt Murphy (52.31) by almost a full second. Mullen also placed third in the 50 free sprint (23.38).

Chris got his first MVC title today and he also swam a terrific 50.8 leg to start the 400 free relay on the way to its record," said coach Taffe.

Andover's second-place 200 free relay of Justin Samuels, Mullen, Geary and Nick Saunders had a 1:32.45 time that smashed the MVC record, but was a split-second behind Chelmsford A which established a new mark of 1:32.16.

Saunders contributed a pair of individual seconds in the 50 free (22.52) and 100 butterfly (54.66).

In both races he was just behind Peter Goldands of Chelmsford, who swam the 50 in 22.35 and the 100 fly in 53.29.

Meltz chalked up two second places as well in the 200 individual medley (2:10.93) and 100 backstroke (1:00.80).

The 200 medley relay A team of Meltz, Samuels, Rob Medaglio and Dave Baletsa was third (1:53.62).

Medaglio placed third in the 500 free (5:29.66) and fourth in the 200 free (1:57.31), chipping 2.1-2 seconds off his previous best time in the latter event.

Samuels registered a sectional-cut 1:08.86 in the 100 breaststroke for third place, and a state-cut 1:35.57 for fourth in the 200 IM.

"Those were two outstanding swims for Justin," said coach Taffe. "He trimmed two seconds off his previous best times in both races."

Joe Reynolds produced a sectional cut and fourth-place finish in the 100 back (1:02.88), and also scored in the 200 IM (10th, 2:22.53).

Freshman Oliver Scarborough was fourth in the 500 free (5:44.51) and seventh in the 100 fly (1:04.84).

The 400 free B relay of Ben Carter, Zac Broomfield, Medaglio and Reynolds took fourth (3:49.43).

The 200 free B relay of Jonathan Taylor, Baletsa, Scarborough and Broomfield placed fifth (1:44.86), while the 200 medley B crew of Reynolds, Tom Avila, Scarborough and Carter was sixth (1:59.16).

Andover took three of the top eight places in the one-meter diving, with Joe Savoca fourth (194.15 points), Javier Verdaguier fifth with a sectional-qualifying 190.75 points and Brian O'Connor eighth (144.80 points).

Both Savoca and Verdaguier will compete at sectionals.

Others picking up points in the 50 free, where AHS placed five swimmers, were Carter (9th, 26.20), Baletsa (11th, 26.41) and Taylor (12th, 26.65).

Broomfield contributed a seventh in the 100 free (personal-best 56.91) and 11th in the 200 free (2:13.48).

Paul D'Ambrosio was 8th in the 100 back (1:07.10) and 12th in the 200 IM (2:32.17).

The top 12 score in each event, and others who produced points included Tom Avila in the 100 fly (10th, 1:09.27) and 100 breast (12th, 1:17.44), Carter in the 100 free (11th, 59.06) and Dave Espindle in the 100 back (11th, 1:08.62).

Although they did not score, two other excellent efforts came from Matt Hoffman in the 500 free and Felipe Machado in the 100 breast.

"Hoffman cut 20 seconds off his previous best and broke seven minutes (6:56) for the first time, and Machado trimmed six seconds off and finished in 1:21.72. Those are major accomplishments for those kids," said coach Taffe.

Trailing Chelmsford and Andover in the final team standings were Haverhill (221 points), Central Catholic (143), Nashua, N.H. (118) and Lowell (110).

ALPINE SKIING

True to their pre-meet seeding, the Andover High girls alpine ski team finished first and the AHS boys were third in the annual Interscholastic Race held at the Bradford Hill Ski Area.

The top eight girls and top eight boys from each team competed, with every skier taking one slalom run and one giant slalom run to produce a combined total time.

Schedule

Eight Andover skiers will compete at the season-ender All-State Championship Meet next Wednesday at Wachusett Mountain (10 a.m.).

The league champion AHS girls team, which has finished fifth and sixth in Massachusetts the past two years, will be represented by Brittany Roy, Mallory Jaracz, Kenann Bartley, Lauren Hayes, Michelle Guy and Courtney Reed.

For the boys, Jim Green and Erik Fosse both qualified to compete in the individual portion of the meet.

Interscholastic Race

Winner Mallory Jaracz (50.13 seconds), close runner-up Brittany Roy (50.14) and Kenann Bartley (52.22) swept the top three places for the undefeated champion AHS girls, while Jim Green (46.05) and Erik Fosse (46.10) were fifth and sixth respectively to pace the boys.

Also competing for the NSL dual-meet champion girls were Lauren Hayes, Michelle Guy, Courtney Reed, Kayla Fosse and Cara Suglia. Colleen Heath was the alternate.

AHS chalked up 468 points to easily out-distance runner-up North Andover at 340.

Rounding out the boys team were Garrison Macomber, Doug Heath, Greg Spurr, Connor Lynch, Dave Holstein and Jason Durant. The alternate was Jason Dashpeyma.

The Golden Warriors scored 582 points to finish behind champ St. John's Prep of Danvers (744) and North Andover (683).

"The team has been training hard all season and it paid off at the Interscholastic Meet," said Warriors' head coach Tom Busta. "Our girls finishing 1-2-3 was incredible!"

Jim Green, after falling in his slalom run, came back to win the giant slalom and finish fifth overall. Erik (Fosse) also put it all together at the right time for sixth place."

Bove Memorial Race

Andover skiers did very well at the 15th annual Bove Memorial Race, which attracted a field of 130 competitors to Bradford Hill.

Each participant took one slalom and one giant slalom run, with their combined time determining the placing.

In the Girls Junior Division (9th-10 grade),



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Defenseman Mike Muccio (No. 7) clears the puck out of Andover's end as the Golden Warriors host Tewksbury on Saturday, Feb. 14. They tied, 1-1.

Season-ending thaw

Ice-out: Warriors short on points

By Rick Harrison

BOYS ICE HOCKEY

The Andover High boys varsity hockey team fell just shy in its bid to earn a Division 2 North Tournament berth, which would have been the 17th in the last 14 years.

A 2-1 loss to Wilmington in the semifinal round of the Newburyport Bank Classic earlier this week was the final blow, making it impossible for the Golden Warriors to reach the 20 points needed to qualify mathematically.

The locals' other option was to finish second in Division 2 of the Merrimack Valley/Dual County League, but they came up one point short of Haverhill and four shy of Tewksbury after the Hillies beat Methuen, 5-1, and the Golden Warriors tied Tewksbury, 1-1, in their league finales.

Haverhill finished 4-1-5 in MV/DCL 2 play for 13 points, while Andover was 5-3-2 for 12 points.

Prior to the Wilmington and Tewksbury games, Andover stretched its unbeaten streak to five games with a 2-1 squeeze past Lincoln-Sudbury as Mike Van Campen scored both goals.

The string was then broken with a 4-1 MV/DCL crossover loss to Division 1 Chelmsford.

Head coach Bill Cullen's crew, with only five seniors on a 31-player roster, were 7-10-2 overall with one game left.

Eleven Andover games this season were decided by two goals or less.

"Overall we're very pleased with the second half of the season," said coach Cullen. "I'm proud of the fact that every team within the league that beat us the first time around — we've tied or beaten them in the rematch."

"At the beginning of the season we had to replace 16 seniors and no one knew what to expect. We started slowly (1-5 and 3-8 records) but have improved tremendously," said Cullen. "The past few games we've had five freshmen taking a regular shift."

Schedule

The Golden Warriors wrap up the regular season today (Thursday) at the Newburyport Bank Classic, facing either Danvers or Triton Regional of Byfield in the third-place consolation game (5 p.m.).

Injury report

• Sophomore forward Mike Lamagna suffered a possible broken ankle in the Tewksbury game, the injury occurring away from the puck when a Redmen player accidentally fell across his lower leg. Earlier this season Lamagna sustained a shoulder injury that requires him to wear a brace at times.

• Junior defenseman Matt Quinlan suffered a deep cut to the chin in the Lincoln-Sudbury game, a wound that required 26 stitches to close. The injury happened in a collision with an L-S player that jammed Quinlan's mask backward into his chin. The cut re-opened in the Chelmsford game and had to be re-stitched.

"At the beginning of the season we were rushing ice bags to the bench left and right because of all the bumps and bruises," said coach Cullen. "The last few games we're down to about one bag per game, which means either we're skating faster or hitting back more."

Andover took nine of the top 14 places led by Kayla Fosse in 2nd and Michelle Guy 4th.

Cara Suglia was 6th, Colleen Heath 8th, Dani Liffman 9th, Carly Holstein 10th, Julie Harker 11th, Jocelyn Chang 13th and Claire Shapiro 14th.

In the Boys Junior, Matt Anderson placed

NEWBURYPORT BANK CLASSIC SEMIFINAL

Wilmington 2

Andover 1

Wilmington (10-8-1) also needed a victory to qualify for the Division 2 North tourney for the 10th straight year.

The Wildcats had a much tougher time in this game than at the Haverhill Christmas Tournament on Dec. 29, when they handed Andover its most lopsided loss of the season, 6-0.

This one was scoreless for the first two periods, but early in the third Wilmington netted a pair of goals just 1:41 apart to take control.

Joe Giordano's unassisted goal at 2:14 made it 1-0, and sophomore Tony Resendes (12-18-30 points) netted the game-winner on a breakaway at 3:55.

The Golden Warriors battled back when sophomore forward Matt Colby netted his team-high ninth goal at 11:04, the assist to junior defenseman Matt Quinlan.

AHS pulled goaltender Dan Abreau in the final minute but was unable to net the equalizer.

Wilmington almost added a third goal into the empty net — but the tally was nullified by a roughing penalty.

Andover was all over Wilmington early, outshooting the Cats 11-6 in the first period, 10-4 in the second and 28-16 for the game.

Wildcats' goaltender Andy Berian was outstanding with 27 saves, while Abreau also played tough and finished with 14 stops.

Andover 1

Tewksbury 1

Trailing 1-0 into the third period, Andover forged the tie when Mike Van Campen scored the equalizer at 7:14.

Toby Cohen, who wasn't credited with an assist, started the scoring play by bringing the puck through the middle and firing it into the TMHS zone.

Matt Colby and Brian Buckley kept banging away in front of the Tewksbury net before Van Campen connected for his sixth goal and third in three games.

Freshman P.J. Paonessa almost won the game in the closing minutes, but his shot rang off the crossbar.

Freshman Andover goaltender Dan Abreau made 26 saves as the Redmen finished with a 27-17 shooting edge.

Geoff Luciano scored the Tewksbury goal at 4:22 of the second period, breaking in alone on Abreau with Tewksbury on the power play.

The Redmen, who blanked Andover 2-0 in their first encounter, finished at 6-0-4 in league play and 12-4-4 overall.

Chelmsford 4

Andover 1

The Golden Warriors, trailing 2-0 after Mark Trahan scored twice in the opening 3:27 of the game, gave Chelmsford something to think about by netting their lone goal 24 seconds into the third period at the Chelmsford Forum.

Freshman P.J. Paonessa was the marksman, with his first varsity goal, and Matt Colby had the assist.

Chris Apostolakes and Scott Aronian later countered for the Lions (8-10-1), netting a pair of insurance goals to seal the win.

Freshman Dan Abreau played a strong game in net for the locals.

10th, Ben Nelson 13th and Sayo Maldari 15th.

In the Senior Division (11th-12 th grade), Brittany Roy and Jim Green of AHS placed 1st for the girls and boys respectively.

Mallory Jaracz was 2nd, Kenann Bartley

Continued on page 19

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AHS ROUNDUP

ALPINE SKIING

Continued from page 18

4th, Lauren Hayes 7th and Kara Bulazick 8th.

Erik Fosse was 5th for the boys, Doug Heath 9th, Dave Holstein 11th, Luke Bryden 13th and Ryan Greeley 14th.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Andover High girls varsity basketball team finished the 2003-04 regular season on a mini-roller coaster ride over the final three games.

The Lady Warriors suffered their poorest shooting night of the season in a 51-49 upset loss to improved Haverhill, and then split a pair of games in the tough Comcast Tournament at B.C. High.

AHS opened the tourney with a 59-51 semifinal round victory over previously-undefeated Arlington Catholic, and then dropped a 58-54 decision to Somerville in the title game.

Those results left coach Jim Tildsley's reigning State Division 1 champs at 15-5 overall, heading into the MIAA Tournament, including 11-2 as Merrimack Valley Conference Division 1 champions for the eighth time in nine years.

Arlington Catholic finished 19-1 overall and tourney champ Somerville was 18-2.

Scoring leaders

Ashley McLaughlin topped the 2003-04 AHS scoring parade through 19 games with 283 points (14.9 ave.), and she now has 1,065 career points.

Jackie Powers had 211 points (11.7 ave.), Matia Kostakis 127 points and Liz Pallotta 111.

Schedule

The pairings for the Division 1 North Tournament are scheduled for release tomorrow, and the opening round of play should be either next Monday or Tuesday.

Andover, the defending champ, should get a top five seed and will likely play its first tourney game at the Dunn Gym.

COMCAST TOURNAMENT

SEMIFINAL ROUND

Andover 59

Arlington Catholic 51

Bouncing back impressively from the unexpected loss to Haverhill, Andover led from start to finish including 25-20 at the half and by as many as 18 points after the break.

Arlington Catholic was 18-0 entering the game and had been ranked No. 1 in Eastern Massachusetts polls at various times this season.

"We played very well defensively," said coach Tildsley. "We did a good job on (AC 1,000-point scorer Heather) Marino. Ashley (McLaughlin) covered her most of the game and the 20 points Marino scored were a 'quiet 20.'

"We also protected the ball well on offense, making only eight turnovers in an up-tempo game against a team that presses all over court," said Tildsley. "Jackie Powers made great decisions on the break about where to distribute the ball."

"The only thing that was a little disturbing is we had three officials and they called 43 (personal) fouls. This was an excellent game between two teams that like to run and do it well. It could have been even better if the refs had let the girls play."

Neither team shot well at the free throw line, AHS hitting an uncharacteristic 12-of-26 and Arlington Catholic an equally inconsistent 11-of-22.

McLaughlin contributed another solid performance with a team-high 19 points, 12 rebounds and two blocked shots.

Emily Pallotta had 10 points, seven steals and four assists. Powers nine points, seven assists and Liz Pallotta nine points, six rebounds.

Matia Kostakis and Maggie Cosgrove netted four points each, while Kostakis snagged a team-best 14 rebounds.

Meagan Merinder and Brittany Moriarty notched a field goal apiece. Merinder also collected five rebounds.

Billerica resident Marino and Erica Whitney shared game-high scoring honors for Arlington Catholic with 20 points each.

Haverhill 51

Andover 49

The Hillies, who registered several big wins down the stretch, became the first MVC team other than Central Catholic to beat Andover over the past four years.

AHS, suffering a possible letdown after clinching the MVC 1 championship two nights earlier by beating Lowell handily, shot a paltry season-low 23 percent from the floor while hitting only 18-of-76 shots.

Haverhill led 23-14 at the half before Andover used a 22-7 second-half run to take a 36-30 lead with six minutes left.

But Haverhill, playing its final home game of the regular season on Senior Night, chipped away and battled back for the dramatic upset win.

"We just weren't ready to play," said coach Tildsley. "And Haverhill has developed into a tough opponent."

"We only turned the ball over 10 times, and we had a lot of good looks at the basket, but we couldn't throw the ball in the ocean."

Jackie Powers did contribute an outstanding all-around effort with 16 points, a career-high nine rebounds and five assists.

Ashley McLaughlin added 12 points, seven boards and three blocked shots.

Rounding out the attack were Liz Pallotta with six points, Meagan Merinder five, Emily Pallotta four, Maggie Cosgrove and Brittany Moriarty a three-pointer each. Merinder also grabbed eight rebounds.

This was only the third time this season Andover scored less than 50 points, and the five losses have come by two-, three-, four-, five- and eight-point margins.

Haverhill had lost nine straight games to Andover since a 50-43 overtime victory on Feb. 9, 1999.

The Hillies twice played Andover tough last year, losing 43-42 and 60-58 in overtime, but earlier this season AHS rolled to a 20-point 64-44 triumph on Jan. 23 at the Dunn Gym.

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Andover High boys varsity basketball team clinched the Merrimack Valley Conference Division 1 championship outright with a 77-69 victory over Haverhill.

The win, which boosted the Golden Warriors to a flashy 18-2 overall and 12-0 in conference play, gave coach Dave Fazio's crew a two-game edge over Central Catholic (17-3, 10-2 MVC 1) entering the regular season finale against the Raiders.

Schedule

The Golden Warriors wrapped up the regular season last night, after Townsman presstime, against archrival Central Catholic which was attempting to avenge a recent 63-61 last-second loss to the locals.

The major incentive for Andover was to finish with a perfect conference record, a feat not often achieved in the highly-competitive MVC.

Tourney pairings

The Division 1 North Tournament pairings are scheduled for release tomorrow (Friday).

Andover should be seeded in the top two or three and could receive a first-round bye.

The tournament will probably start next Monday or Tuesday, and Andover will play at least one game at the Dunn Gym.

Scoring leaders

Through 19 games Chris Vetrano had 432 points (22.7 ave.), boosting his all-time AHS career-high total to 1,963 points as he chases down 2,000.

Jack Barrett has 339 points (17.8 ave.) this season and 1,075 for his career, which includes 175 during his freshman season playing at Reading High.

Other top scorers for AHS are Casey Cosgrove 190 (10.0 ave.), and Bobby Hughes 167 (8.8 ave.).

INDOOR TRACK

Sophomore Brittany Pierce placed second in the 55-meter high hurdles, and ran a leg on the third-place 4x200 sprint relay to lead Andover High performances at the State Class A Indoor Track and Field Championship Meet at the Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury.

Pierce's strong two-medal effort

sparked the Lady Warriors to a ninth-place team finish in a field of 39 schools, while the AHS boys settled for 14th place among 43 teams.

Schedule

Several AHS athletes will be competing this Saturday at the All-State Meet at the Lewis Center, having qualified with their solid showings in Class A.

State Class A Meet

Brittany Pierce ran the 55 hurdles in 8.89 seconds, and then joined twin sister Caroline, Capt. Amanda Carlson and junior Jenny Dlesk on the 4x200 relay which crossed in 1:47.70.

The Lady Warriors, who finished with 20 points, also had a fourth from junior shot putter Felicia Thompson (34'9 3/4") and sixths from surprising freshman standout Rachel Fox in the 600 meter run (personal-best 1:41.66) and junior Meghan Keefe in the hurdles (9.31).

Newton North topped the 39-team girls field with 52 points.

The best finishes for the Andover boys were a trio of fifth places from 55-meter hurdler/senior Capt. Vin Errico (8.00 seconds), junior sprinter Robert Kaufman in the 300 dash (36.90) and the all-senior 4x200 sprint relay of Errico, Jarrett Mackin, Bruce Hulman and anchorman Ryan Donahue (1:35.29).

Senior Capt. Ryan Durkin chalked up the final AHS point with a strong 9:51.50 run for sixth place in the highly-competitive two-mile.

The Newton North boys also won with 52 points, edging runner-up Brockton (51) by a single point in the 43-school field.

MVC Boys Championship

The Andover High boys placed second to runaway champ Central Catholic, finishing with 54 points while the Raiders piled up 82.

Distance ace Ryan Durkin and Robert Kaufman were the Golden Warriors' biggest standouts.

The undefeated Durkin captured the two-mile by more than 20 seconds in 10:01.8, and anchored the victorious 4x400 relay which also included Vin Errico, Kaufman and Garret Rayner (3:40.9).

Kaufman, meanwhile, doubled up by winning the 300 dash (34.6).

Other AHS scorers included Vin Errico second in the 50 hurdles (6.5), Ryan Donahue third in the 50 dash (5.6), Matt Malloy fourth in the 600 run (1:20.6), Kyle MacKenzie fifth in the shot put (45'1") and Mark Radinski fifth in the high jump (5'7").

The Golden Warriors also grabbed fifth place in the 4x800 relay (8:50.5).

GIRLS ICE HOCKEY

The Andover High girls varsity ice hockey team continued its outstanding play over the second half of the season,

beating Everett (5-3) and Duxbury (3-0) while battling to a 2-2 tie with defending state champ Boston Latin in recent action.

Those results moved the tourney-bound Lady Warriors to 11-4-3 overall, including 5-4-2 in Dual-Metro League games.

Andover was also 6-1-3 over a 10-game stretch heading into the final two regular season games.

Schedule

AHS played a non-league game last night at Billerica (7 p.m.), after Townsman presstime, and the regular season ends with a twice-postponed home game versus Lincoln-Sudbury now set for tomorrow (Friday) at Merrimack College (11:50 a.m.).

The league All-Star Game is Sunday, February 22 at the Chelmsford Forum in Billerica.

Tourney pairings

Pairings for the upcoming single elimination MIAA Tournament are scheduled for release on Monday, with Andover expected to play its first game next Tuesday or Wednesday.

Injury report

The game against Arlington was rough-and-tumble, with freshman standout Becky Cairns suffering a neck injury.

Cairns took a stick to the throat which caused a contusion and pinched nerve. She played only the first period against Arlington but was back in the lineup four days later versus Everett.

Junior Capt. Jacqui Munro suffered a concussion and was expected to miss the final two regular season games and return for the tournament.

"Jacqui is an integral part of our team," said coach Bill McCarthy. "She was hit with a 'cheap shot' and there wasn't even a penalty called on the play."

Scoring leaders

Record-setting scorer Maria Nasta had a team-high 27 goals and 13 assists for 40 points after 18 games, while freshman Becky Cairns had 14 goals and 16 assists for 30 points.

Other top scorers are Adrienne Shea with 10 goals and 16 assists, Ashley Malins six goals, 17 assists and Alison Burns five goals, eight assists.

Nasta has set girls hockey single-season school records for goals and total points.

The old marks were 15 goals and 28 points, both established last season by Adrienne Shea. Shea, now a senior, is the leader in career goals (37) and points (73).

Andover 5

Everett 3

The Lady Warriors, who beat Everett 3-0 earlier this season, took a 2-0 first-period lead and later broke a 2-2 tie on the way to victory at Veterans

Memorial Rink in Everett.

Maria Nasta (5:14) and Becky Cairns (unassisted at 11:37) gave AHS the early lead, and Cairns broke the 2-2 stalemate at 10:39 of the middle period.

Nasta and freshman defenseman Becky Johnson (unassisted) added goals just 81 seconds apart late in the third period to seal the win.

Alison Burns and Adrienne Shea finished with two assists each. Ashley Malins had one and goaltender Dolly Beechnor made 22 saves.

Andover 2

Boston Latin 2

AHS took a 1-0 lead over the league champs when Ashley Malins scored at 2:28 of the second period, and Adrienne Shea made it 2-0 at 1:48 of the third stanza in the Dual-Metro game at the Merrimack Valley Forum.

But Latin, which peppered goalie Dolly Beechnor with more than 40 shots, eventually broke through for a pair of third-period goals to forge the tie.

"We had them on the ropes," said coach McCarthy. "They scored their first goal with six minutes left, and then, scored again two minutes later on the power play."

We had that very brief letdown and Latin capitalized — which good teams do. But any time you can take a point from Boston Latin you've done a good job. It was huge for our confidence."

Maria Nasta assisted on both goals, while Allison Abreu and Jacqui Munro had a setup each and Beechnor was spectacular in net.

Latin had beaten Andover, 7-5, in their first game Jan. 18 at Matthews Arena in Boston.

Andover 3

Duxbury 0

This game was scoreless until the third period, when Andover hit the South Cape Conference champions with a three-spot and went on to register its fifth shutout of the season and first in seven games.

Maria Nasta pumped in the game-winner for the visitors at 2:18 of the final session, assists to Sam Weinburg and Ashley Malins.

It remained 1-0 until the final four minutes, Becky Cairns notching an insurance goal at 11:20 and Nasta connecting on the power play two minutes later (13:40) with just 80 seconds remaining.

Malins, Cairns, Alison Burns and Adrienne Shea had an assist each, while the shutout went to freshman goalie Christina Cahill.

"Cahill played her best (varsity) game ever," said McCarthy. "Our four defenseman — Liz Roda, Ally Brown, Allison Abreu and Becky Johnson — were also outstanding once again."

"We play four defensemen who rotate every other shift so they all get plenty of ice time. They've been terrific all season."

The first time these non-league rivals met it ended in a 4-4 tie on Jan. 28 at the Forum.

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LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF ANDOVER

PLANNING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, at 8:00 p.m., in the Third Floor Conference Room, Town Office Building, Bartlett Street, on the application submitted by Fieldstone Meadows, for a Special Permit for Earth Movement, under Section 6.3. of the Zoning By-Law, said application associated with a 6-Lot Definitive Subdivision Plan entitled Gregory Circle. The project is located 11 Lowell Junction Road, and is more specifically identified as Assessors' Map 160, Parcels 7 & 8. The application and associated documents may be examined in the Planning Department between the hours of 8:00 a.m., and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD

Paul Salafia, Chairman
February 19 & 26, 2004

TOWN OF ANDOVER

PLANNING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, at 9:15 p.m., in the Third Floor Conference Room, Town Office Building, Bartlett Street, on the application Etsai Research Institute of Boston, Inc., for a Special Permit for Major Non-Residential Development, for construction of a 150,000 square-foot research and office facility along with associated parking on property owned by the applicant at One Corporate Drive off Shattuck Road, said property being more specifically identified as Assessor's Map 167. The application may be viewed in the Planning Department between the hours of 8:00 a.m., and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD

Paul Salafia, Chairman
February 19 & 26, 2004

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, March 4, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of Chinmaya Mission, 1 Union St., Andover, MA for a variance from the requirements of Article VIII, § 5.2.7.1 &/or § 5.2.7.2 to erect a free-standing sign that will exceed the minimum area.

DANIEL S. CASPER, CHAIRMAN

February 19 & 26, 2004

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, March 4, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of Michael Russo, 22 Fiorenza Dr., Wilmington, MA for a dimensional special permit for historic preservation to subdivide an existing lot to create 2 lots, one of which will not meet dimensional requirements, and to move a house from

DANIEL S. CASPER, CHAIRMAN

February 19 & 26, 2004

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, March 4, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of Julie & Corinne Gediman, 8 Hitchcock Farm Rd., Andover, MA for a variance from Article VIII, § 3.1.3.F.3 & § 10 definitions to conduct performing arts classes.

DANIEL S. CASPER, CHAIRMAN

February 19 & 26, 2004

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, March 4, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of Michael Russo, 22 Fiorenza Dr., Wilmington, MA for a dimensional special permit for historic preservation to subdivide an existing lot to create 2 lots, one of which will not meet dimensional requirements, and to move a house from

DANIEL S. CASPER, CHAIRMAN

February 19 & 26, 2004

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, March 4, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of Norman & Lori Gress, 20 Highland Ave., Andover, MA for a variance from the Andover Zoning By-Law, Article 3.1.3.F.8

DANIEL S. CASPER, CHAIRMAN

February 19 & 26, 2004

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, March 4, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of Rita Lundstrom, 3 Jan St., Woburn, MA 01801 for an extension of Decision No 3182.

DANIEL S. CASPER, CHAIRMAN

February 19 & 26, 2004

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, March 4, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of David & Lydia Cardin, 52 Brewster St., N. Andover for an extension of Decision No 3266.

DANIEL S. CASPER, CHAIRMAN

February 19 & 26, 2004

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, March 4, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of Glenwood Rd., Ext. 1, Andover, MA for a variance from the requirements of Article VIII, § 4.1.2 &/or a special permit under Article VIII, §

DANIEL S. CASPER, CHAIRMAN

February 19 & 26, 2004

Classified Index

2-10
Announcements

11-17
Financial

18-24
Instruction

26-50
Real Estate For Sale

51-75
Rentals

76 - 100
Help Wanted

101-148
Merchandise

149-150
Pets & Live Stock

151-225
Service/Repairs

226-249
Transportation

2-10

Announcements

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Classified Ads

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11-17

Financial

12 Business Opportunities

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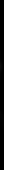
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If you welcome challenge, come grow with us!



Application Support Representative - The Eagle-Tribune

Full-time. Responsibilities include user help desk support, training, software set-up and testing. Support various application software systems including Peoplesoft, AS/400, Microsoft Access, Word and Excel. Strong communication skills and a pleasant phone manner a must. Bachelor's degree and three years system support experience with a daily newspaper preferred. Please e-mail resume and cover letter with salary requirements to hr@eagletribune.com.

Editor - Derry News

Full-time. Responsible for overall news and editorial content of twice-a-week paper with Derry and Londonderry editions. Direct supervision of news staff. Ideal candidate will have three to five years experience as an editor for a daily or weekly publication, solid news judgement, strong sense of local news, editing/pagination ability, excellent people skills and an active interest in being part of the communities covered by the News. Please submit resume, along with a minimum of five examples of edited sections or other materials demonstrating your skills and experience. Applications without supporting materials will not be accepted.

Full-time (30+ hours) benefits package includes: health, dental and life insurance, long- and short-term disability, 401(k) plan, profit sharing, paid vacations and holidays. Part-time benefits package includes: 401(k) plan, profit sharing, paid vacations and holidays.

Please mail or e-mail resume and cover letter to Eagle-Tribune Publishing Company, Attn: Human Resources, 100 Turnpike St., North Andover, MA 01845 or hr@eagletribune.com.

Applications may be obtained in the lobby of The Eagle-Tribune at 100 Turnpike St., North Andover, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



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Packaging Center Supervisor - The Eagle-Tribune

Full-time. Responsible for equipment set-up and operation. Supervise third shift production runs, assist with employee equipment training. Perform machine maintenance as necessary. Two years experience in a production environment required. Hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.

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Part-time. Answer inbound phone calls consisting of customer inquiries and problems. Hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sunday 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; or Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 6:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Previous customer service experience preferred. Must possess strong data entry skills, a clear telephone voice and the ability to work well with the public.

Hawker Managers - Gloucester Daily Times, The Salem News

Part-time. Serving as liaison with hawkers and other sales agents. Establishing new locations to sell (hawk). Collecting and depositing sales funds received from sales agents and hawkers. Some sales and/or management experience preferred. Starting pay \$11 per hour. Hours are Saturdays 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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● Experience Required
● Pesticide License
● Drivers License
● Good Attitude
Competitive pay and benefit package
Call us 978-777-2855

Legal Secretary

for Salem, MA attorney 25-30 hrs/wk, be detail oriented, possess excellent typing & computer skills. Legal office background preferred, pay based on experience.
Call Cheryl at 978-741-7400

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& EXPERIENCED HELPERS Excellent pay & benefits available. Call Barry's Electric 781-593-5378

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for Seacoast Resort Hotel. Duties include front desk reception, computer, basic maintenance, building security. Salary plus 1 bedroom unit. Send resume to: 25 Jackson St., Methuen, MA 01844 or fax to 978-794-0195

Looking For A Career Change?

Prescription Tech Services, The North Shore leading lawn care company has openings in the lawn care, tree & shrub care, and sports turf departments for career oriented individuals. Starting base salary of \$26,000 plus bonuses and commission. Full benefits including health, dental, vision, 401K, stock purchase, etc. Will train the right individual. Call Kevin or Jim at 978-777-1663

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Small landscape company looking for experienced help with leadership ability. Drivers license required. Positive attitude & good work ethic a plus. Call 603-442-7715

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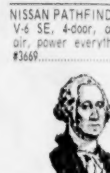
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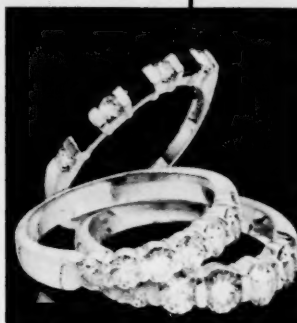
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